

BEARCAT REMEMBERS KATRINA

THURSDAY

Aug. 30, 2007 | V82 | N1

NWmissourian.com

THE RAIL

Wellness center to be closed for a day

The University Wellness Center will be closed on Friday, Sept. 7 because of building maintenance.

The staff will not be able to see clients that day for appointments, but will take phone calls at 562-1348.

Dunham serves provost assistant

Doug Dunham formerly the Psychology, Sociology and Counseling Department Chair, has filled the position as Assistant to the Provost and is also serving as the interim director for the Assessment, Information and Analysis Center.

He has been a faculty member for 12 years. During that time he participated on Faculty Senate serving as a department chair and as Chair of Academic Chairs.

ANTS to hold pizza party

The Association of Non-Traditional Students (ANTS) will hold a back-to-school pizza party at 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9 at the College Park Pavilion.

Participants may bring their family or friend and are asked to bring dessert. During that time people can learn about ANTS and meet other non-traditional students. RSVP by Sept. 6 by calling Jacquelyn Loghry at 562-1863 or get more information by emailing Jackie@nwmissouri.edu.

Foundation names new directors

The Northwest Foundation, Inc. recently named six new board directors.

New directors are Holly Murphy-Barstow, class of 1981 from Omaha, Neb; Mark Doll, class of 1980 from Council Bluffs, Iowa; Jason Garst, class of 1993 from Watson, Mo.; Ray Hilschke, class of 1966 from The Woodlands, Texas; Bill Price, class of 1960, from Cincinnati, Ohio; Jim Redd, class of 1966, from Leawood, Kan.

Thursday

SMSTA Barbecue 5 p.m. at Brown Hall circle drive.

Volleyball, 5:30 p.m. at the Christian Campus House.

Sister Circle 6:30 p.m. in the JW Jones Student Union Living Room.

Late Night at the Union, bingo at 10 p.m.

Friday

National Day in Malaysia.

Last day for 100 percent refund for dropped trimester course or withdrawal.

Last day for 75 percent refund for first-block drop or withdrawal.

Soccer vs. St. Cloud State, 2 p.m.

Ultimate Frisbee at the Christian Campus House at 5 p.m.

Sunday

National Day in Vietnam.

Late registration ends.

Last day to add or enroll in a trimester course.

Soccer vs. Wayne State at 2 p.m.

Monday

Labor Day no classes.

Communication program information meeting at 3 p.m. in the JW Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Tuesday

IM golf entries close at noon. ACM barbecue at 5:30 p.m. Faculty recital: William Richardson, trumpet, 8 p.m. in the Charles Johnson Theater.

Wednesday

IM golf begins, 2 p.m., at Mozingo Lake Golf Course. IM softball entries close and meeting at 4 p.m. Greek recruitment information session, 5-7 p.m. in the JW Jones Student Union.

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Visit our online site for Web extras and additional multimedia coverage.

Layoff provides much needed rest after home opener is postponed, cancelled



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CAMPUS

Hubbard: Tenant secured for Center of Excellence

By Evan Young
Managing Editor

Northwest remains optimistic about successfully receiving state funds for and completing construction of the Center of Excellence for Plant Biologics.

In fact, one St. Louis based company has "announced informally" that it would move its operations to the currently vacant building, President Dean Hubbard said Tuesday.

"They just said 'We made a decision, and this is where we want to be,'" Hubbard said. "It ain't over 'til it's over. Something could go wrong, but it doesn't look like it."

Though he would not give the client's name, Hubbard said the company specializes in recycling and processing tires "in a way we haven't seen."

Rather than making rubber chips for use in artificial turf on football fields or school playgrounds, the future Center of Excellence anchor company owns a patent on a money-saving process that extracts fuels from the tires, Hubbard said.

However, the center would serve only as a research and development center; the recycling plant would be located on the east side of Maryville near the Energizer plant, he said.

A second, "mature" company also shows interest in occupying the center, though it has yet to make a final decision, Hubbard said. With operations on the east and west U.S. coasts, the company may also decide to make Maryville its Midwest home, he said. It specializes in diagnostic testing using nanotechnology, the science of manipulating matter in terms of single molecules

and atoms.

"They want to work with our biology people and our biology program and are excited about the skills our students have," Hubbard said.

These developments come even as a recent lawsuit threatens to prevent the \$24.4 million of state money needed to complete the center from reaching Northwest.

On Aug. 10, two student borrowers, Michael McGennis and Aaron Izadi-Moghadam from Columbia, Mo., sued the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) over its involvement with Gov. Matt Blunt's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative.

The initiative was part of Senate Bill 389, which passed through the legislature in the spring

See EXCELLENCE on A6

Quick facts

A St. Louis based tire recycling and processing company has "announced informally" it will occupy the Center of Excellence for Plant Biologics, Northwest President Dean Hubbard said.

Though it has yet to make a final decision, a second company that specializes in diagnostic testing using nanotechnology also shows a strong interest in the center, Hubbard said.

A recent lawsuit against Missouri's primary loan agency threatens the remaining \$24.4 million of state money needed to finish construction on the center.

Despite the threat, the first disbursement of that money will be sent to Northwest on schedule, Hubbard said.

What do you get when nearly 1,500 students choose Northwest? The largest freshmen class in history.

By Evan Young
Managing Editor

As the first full week of class winds down, the busy sidewalks, crowded hallways and long lunch lines easily say it all.

Northwest's incoming freshmen/transfer class for 2007-08 is the biggest class in the institution's history, with 1,480 students enrolled as of the start of Advantage on Aug. 23.

"It's the largest class on record that I can find," Enrollment Management Dean Beverly Schenkel said.

This year's class represents a 21 percent increase from last year's class of 1,220, Schenkel said. The University's previous freshmen/transfer record was 1,450 students in 1989, she said.

Northwest is a moderately selective institution, which means it will accept every student that meets or exceeds its admissions requirements, Schenkel said.

Not every student whose application is accepted actually enrolls at Northwest, and this year, the institution admitted over 3,200 applicants, Schenkel said. About 45 percent of those students decided to enroll.

"There's a historical pattern that an average of 47 percent of those accepted would enroll. If you hit 50 percent, you've done a very good job," Schenkel said.

In April, the institution predicted an 18 percent freshmen/transfer enrollment increase; but as spring turned to summer,

At a glance

1,480 freshmen and transfer students are currently enrolled at Northwest, 280 more than the average.

Northwest accepted 3,271 applicants for this school year.

1 in 4 faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences are teaching more than four sections of a course this semester.

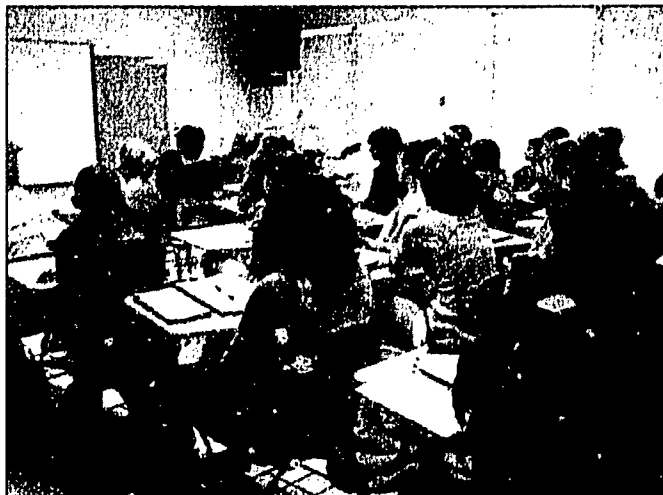


photo by Lindsay Jacobs | university news editor

A FULL CLASS of students, primarily freshmen, awaits the start of adjunct Barry Crossland's Fundamentals of Oral Communication class Tuesday in Wells Hall.

that number grew.

At one point, a decision had to be made whether or not to continue accepting students. After meeting with Schenkel, admissions personnel and the deans of the University's three colleges, Provost Kichoon Yang decided against an admissions cap.

The decision was difficult, because there were two perspectives to consider, Yang said.

"I did not want to turn away academically qualified students,

See 1,500 on A6

COMMUNITY

Bringing business back

Series one of a three part look at economic development in Maryville

By Sean Comer
Community News Editor

Local storefronts and commercial lots in Maryville become vacant for varying reasons.

As more businesses exit the Maryville market, fewer and fewer small businesses seem to set up shop in the old ones' former locations.

The original Wal-Mart vacated its old building to expand into a Wal-Mart Supercenter next door in 2000. Prospective tenants have infrequently made efforts to sub-lease the building since that time.

In early August, Nodaway County Treasurer Mary Knowle began exploring the possibility of Nodaway County purchasing and renovating the former Wal-Mart building into a new center for county government. Nodaway County Assessor Rex Wallace got behind the idea, as well.

However, Nodaway County had already committed funds to designing and breaking ground on a brand new building on the corner of Fourth and Market, while Wallace and Knowle attempted to determine who actually had the right to sell the building.

Two more commercial lots lie blocks north of the former Wal-Mart. A vacant lot formerly housing a BP gas station awaits a potential tenant.

The lot remains vacant over nearly two years after BP went out of business. However, economic developer Lee Langerock says the lot has a perfectly desirable location for an incoming franchise or burgeoning small business.

In fact, a retail developer once told Langerock explicitly why: "Congestion" means "Visibility."

"In a community meeting, we were saying something about the congestion at South Main and South Avenue," Langerock said. "After that meeting, the retail developer looked at me and said 'Lee,

See ECON on A6

Advantage Week welcomes new Bearcats

Students adjust to life away from home, embrace newfound college freedom

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

Editors note: Staffer Lindsay Jacobs followed four freshmen around during Advantage Week. The following is a recap of their experiences.

A record number of new Bearcats made Northwest their home last Thursday.

Advantage 2007 was held last week to familiarize freshmen and transfer students with campus life.

Moving for the first time

The newly built Hudson and Perrin bustled on Thursday with yellow carts full of suitcases, bedding and memorabilia from home. Excited new students, eager to begin college life, and their families worked diligently to make the big move.

Samantha Watson, along with the help of her parents settled in to her new room in Hudson Hall.

Before she moved in with her roommate, Jaimee O'Brien, they were "complete strangers," Watson said. The girls had e-mailed and text messaged each other, but had never met in person.

She had lived in the same house her whole life so this would be different for her.

Following move-in day, she said transition went smoothly and was glad her parents were there to help, but was too distracted with dinner and the football game to think about her parents leaving. O'Brien and her roommate are getting along fine, despite not knowing each other prior, Watson said.

Lightning couldn't dampen their spirits

Dark clouds loomed over Bearcat Stadium as the new students walked to the home-opener football game.

Freshman Ryan Bogeart, wearing an

official White Out Shirt attended his first Bearcat game, even though it was called early because of lightning.

After officials paused the game because of the weather, around half the original crowd returned, including Bogeart. He has always enjoyed sports, including football, he said.

Bogeart clapped along with the crowd during an Arkansas Tech incomplete in the few minutes after the game resumed until it was called. He said he was excited about the other fans' enthusiasm and plans to attend more games.

"They're (the football team) pretty good so far," Bogeart said.

The storm continued through the night with loud claps of thunder and heavy rain.

See ADVANTAGE on A6



photo by Lindsay Jacobs | university news editor

FRESHMAN CIERRA WILLIAMS (left) walks around the Merchant's Fair with her friend last Saturday. Williams said the event helped her learn what businesses are available in Maryville.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Radio station receives grants

Northwest's public radio station received \$32,500 in grants to improve station equipment and cover programming fees.

KXCV/KRNV broadcasts to northwest and north central Missouri as well as southwestern Iowa and airs National Public Radio and Bearcat Athletic programs.

Faculty member presents recital

William Richardson, music assistant professor and Northwest's jazz program will perform a trumpet recital at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 4 in the Charles Johnson Theater.

Ellen Bottorff, a pianist and faculty member at the University of Kansas is also slated to perform.

Funding for the recital has been provided by a Dean's Research Assistance Award, presented by Charles McAdams, Northwest College of Arts and Sciences Dean.

Admission to the concert is free.

American Association of University Women meeting scheduled

The American Association of University Women Maryville Branch will hold a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 6 at Mozingo Lake Golf Course Clubhouse.

Educational meetings held through May will cover topics such as identity theft, strength training, sexual assault protection, modern global slave trade and investment strategies for women.

Members do not have to be employed by or associated with the University to become involved.

Members, guests and anyone interested in the organization are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 4. Reservations can be made by calling Jennifer Wall at 853-9659 or e-mailing her at jwall@nwmissouri.edu.

The cost is \$9 for members and guests and complimentary for non-members.

6 new members to Board of Directors

New members are: Cindy Tjeerdsma Akehurst, class of 2001 from Kansas City, where she works as a marketing graphics and brand manager at Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP; Amy Willis Harlin, class of 1995 from Kansas City, where she is the Glendale Area Chamber of Commerce president; Allen Kearns, class of 1962 from Omaha, Neb., a retired construction and mining accounting manager at Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc.; Mark Pickler, class of 1976 from St. Joseph and is a production supervisor at Cablevision Advertising; Nicole Bankus Porterfield, class of 1991 from St. Louis, worked in social services for 12 years and John Van Cleave, class of 1973 and received a master's degree in 1989, he lives in Maryville and is a former physical education instructor at Eugene Field Elementary School.

The board is made up of 18 members who work with 13 alumni chapters. In 2006 they hosted over 10,000 alumni and friends at almost 200 events.

The Northwest Missouri State University Upward Bound Program would like to thank the following for their support and valuable assistance during our 2007 summer program:

Dr. Max Ruhl - Dean, College of Education
Dr. Elizabeth Boyles - Academic Director
Dr. Jackie H. - Associate Vice President, Student Affairs
Nancy B. - Grants Director
Dan Edrington - Contr. Director
The Upward Bound Staff
The Student Support and Services (SSS) Staff
AFRAME - Manager and S. Tammi C. - Associate Director
Admission
Pat Wyse - Reference Assistant, L. Owens
Lisa Crater - Office Manager, Biology/Chemistry Dept.
Trinity Christian Center
Dining Management & Staff
Clarence Green - Director, Campus Safety
D. Grasty - Notebook Specialist
The Family & Consumer Sciences Department
The Human Resources & Payroll Department
Joe Cornelison - General Counsel

Paul Klute - Assistant to the President
Elizabeth Boyles - Academic Scheduling Specialist
Dr. Matt Matthews - Complex Director
Dr. Leslie Galbreath - Director, Talent Development Center
Virginia Moore - University Health Center
Nicki Buey - Secretary, Auxiliary Services
Robert Lloyd - Custodial Staff
Gina Bradley & the University Relations department for their generous donations of prizes.
And especially to our job shadow and work study supervisors:
Steve Chor - Telecommunications Technical Supervisor
Barren Whitley - University Photographer
John Baker - Associate Professor, Accounting/Economics/Finance
John Zwickel - Computer Specialist, CITE
Syd Weybrew - Ornamental Specialist
Mark Galbraith & Dave Duval - Environmental Services

Our program would not have been a success without you!

Advantage



LAST THURSDAY incoming freshmen moved into the newly built Hudson and Perrin halls. The residence halls house 500 students.

HUDSON, PERRIN OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR FRESHMEN CLASS

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

Pouring rains, a power outage and first floor flooding. Mother Nature did all she could, but the new Hudson and Perrin residence halls are now open.

"I'm ecstatic that we have a brand new facility for freshmen to live in," Matt Baker, director of Residential Life said. "It's exciting for them, it's exciting for Northwest."

Both halls officially opened Aug. 22.

Heavy rain and strong storms in early August caused flooding on the first floor of Hudson, prompting an immediate clean up.

"We had one door that the water came in underneath into the hallway," Auxiliary Services Director Mark Hetzler said. "The final grading wasn't done on the exterior of the building so water was running in places it wouldn't run once the grading's done."

Students living in the building experienced standing water

as custodial personnel worked to remove it.

"Anytime you open a new building, there's going to be things you learn about it," Baker said. "I anticipate over the next six months we're going to find a lot of very small things that are going to be significant to the students that live there."

Even though freshmen are living in the buildings, work still needs to be done.

According to Hetzler, an order of 15 window blinds are on back-order, some windows have leaking issues and benches in the showers have yet to be installed.

Hetzler said benches should arrive in September, however, installation may take place during a break later in the semester to avoid disrupting students.

For now small stepping stools are supplied in each shower.

Combined, Hudson and Perrin house 500 residents with 24-hour study lounges, pod-style bathrooms (designated up to five residences)

and recreational rooms.

Nathan Bunse, with the help of his mother, Carole, a 1981 Northwest alumna, said they enjoyed the convenience of having a pre-made loft in the room.

"I'll probably be down at the Wesley Center a lot so it's nice considering it's not a 10-minute walk (from the high rises)," Nathan said.

From a parent's perspective, Carole likes her son living in the new facility.

"This is wonderful, I lived in Hudson when I came here," she said. "It's very cool, I'm very excited for him."

A large positive reaction came from residents of the new buildings, however, freshman John Carr did see one disadvantage.

"The only thing is the desks are smaller than Phillips and Dieterich and I don't like that we don't have the drawers right next to it," Carr said.

Personality Profile

Wilmes manages time with jobs, family

By Shane Sherwood
Chief Reporter

Gerald Wilmes sits behind a well-organized desk, with his BlackBerry to his side, awaiting the next call from a department head.

Wilmes is the Northwest Student Affairs Vice President, the Wellness Center director and a city council member.

While working in the Student Affairs Office, Wilmes works with other directors to make sure the department is crisp and clean. Communication is the key ingredient in managing success, Wilmes said.

He works closely with Jackie Elliott, associate student affairs vice president; Mark Hetzler, the auxiliary services director; and Matt Baker, the Residential Life director, to make sure the Student Affairs Office is running smoothly.

Wilmes' key success point is very critical in managing time and personal life because it is vital to remain healthy both mentally and physically.

"The key to success is if you have great people around you, it's very possible," Wilmes said.

According to his secretary, Mallory Burnside, Wilmes' schedule is busy.

Heading the Student Affairs office is only one responsibility for Wilmes.

The next responsibility is head of the Wellness Center, which consists of a few new faces. Wilmes is ready to start building a strong team using techniques such as team builders, which are activities that allow the staff to get to know each other.

Being a member of the city council is another responsibility for Wilmes. The reason he was so interested in city council was to patch the relationship between Northwest and Maryville.

Believing it is key to fulfillment, Wilmes said he always takes time for himself.

In his free time he enjoys hiking and biking. He was able to spend time with his wife, Robin, and their four children.

"It's not the day to day things that make life interesting. It's the things that come up unexpectedly. It's serendipitous," Wilmes said.

On Aug. 18, Wilmes participated in the Maryville Aquatic Center Mini Triathlon with Aimee Rea and Thomas Matthews, both hall directors for Residential Life. The team placed second.

Wilmes believes the philosophy:

With a strong team anything is possible.

HELLO KITTY



FRESHMAN LAURA Brunner holds a kitten while visiting the Nodaway County Humane Society's booth at the Merchant's Fair held on last Saturday.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Facebook sparks roommate concerns among freshmen

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

College students and their families are now using Facebook, a social network to get to know their roommates, and in some cases, they don't like what they see.

Facebook allows members to post photos of themselves and their friends and pick what goes in their profile such as favorite quotes, interests and favorite TV shows and movies, as long as it's within their regulations.

However, many schools are experiencing families of students calling in and requesting a room change because of the content on their future roommate's profile.

"It's very minimal (at Northwest) to what other schools are experiencing," said Jeremy Waldeier, associate admissions director.

In total, Waldeier said he received four phone calls from concerned families. Those students were encouraged to contact their roommate and get to know them beyond what is on their Facebook page, Waldeier said.

Residential Life gets around 200 requests a year for room changes, said director Matt Baker. That trend has not changed, but this is the first year Baker has heard of Facebook causing a concern, he said.

Once a room assignment is published, students can request to change it with no questions asked as long as it's before move-in day, Baker said.

However, in some cases just the opposite is happening, Baker said. He

found Facebook groups are forming to help build relationships between resident and their room and roommates, he said.

Student Ambassadors, the group that assists the Admissions Office in student recruitment, may eventually brainstorm ways to work with this issue, Waldeier said.

Waldeier said most people focus on the bad implications of Facebook, but he predicts many used the site for more information.

"I'm sure there were numerous students who learned a little more about the roommate through Facebook or Myspace (another social network)," Waldeier said.

Allison Behrens, whose son moved in to the residence halls on Thursday, said she looked at his roommate's Facebook profile. She was not concerned with what she saw on the roommates Facebook, and she wouldn't be worried if she had, Behrens said.

Freshman Kelsey Amensen did use Facebook to learn more about her new roommate. She said she did not find anything offensive.

Amensen isn't certain she would have requested a room change if there was something questionable, she said.

Her mom, Kristen, said she was pleased with what she saw. Bakersaid students should be thinking about what they're posting online.

"I think it's wise for students to be careful about the information they put on the Internet," Baker said.

COMMUNITY

PUBLIC WORKS

Street repairs on schedule

Phase I of streetscape project to be completed in October

By Sean Comer
Community News Editor

Downtown Maryville will soon complete a first step in its community renewal.

Maryville city officials predict Loch Sand & Construction Co. will finish work on Phase I Maryville's streetscape project in early October.

Phase 1 improves thoroughfares along the intersections of Fourth and Market Streets, and eventually Third and Market Streets, by adding crosswalks; improving sidewalks and driving surfaces; and adding cosmetic improvements that include period lampposts and lighting, trees and decorative landscaping.

Public works director Greg Decker said the Maryville firm remains on-schedule with the improvements despite unforeseen additional work during the project. Decker said sewer and wastewater issues at the intersection of Fourth and Market Streets forced in-house crews funded from the water and waste-water budget to replace the

old water lines at the courthouse, setting the project back three to four days.

Additionally, electrical wiring for the street lights now run beneath the pavement, Decker said. The move serves to improve both the form and function of the square's infrastructure.

"The general public's not going to notice the wires draping from pole-to-pole, building-to-building," Decker said. "The biggest benefit is the safety to the general public. We don't have to worry about truck traffic knocking the wires out."

City Manager Matt LeClerc said project crews recently squared off the street at the intersection of Third and Market. According to Decker, that creates a smoother driving transition onto the new surface. LeClerc said the additional work cost the city an additional \$13,148.40 in its contract with Loch Sand & Construction Co. to cover the additional work.

City officials and downtown merchants now look ahead to

Phase 2 of the city's Campaign for Community Renewal. Initial plans already include expanding the streetscape project to renew the entire downtown business district, according to Decker.

The city has already secured a \$200,000 enhancement grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation to fund that phase, LeClerc said.

Decker also said Phase 3 will eventually advance the design themes of the Courthouse Square down South Main Street. The city also secured a \$230,000 enhancement grant from MoDOT.

Eric Coutts, owner of Accent Printing on Fourth Street, has made some changes due to the construction around him.

"A 48-foot truck getting in and out is kind of a challenge right now," Coutts said. "I've had twenty people complain they can't get in."

"I don't know that [the streetscape] will increase foot-traffic. It's going to look nice but I don't know that it's necessarily going to bring retail business downtown."

HOUSE FIRE



MARYVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS responded to a basement fire Aug. 24 at a house on North Ray Avenue in north Maryville. Homeowner Ken Schauer, an engineer at Kawasaki, was not home at the time but said his cat died in the incident.

MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

New high school principal wants to put fun back into education

By Andrea James
Copy Desk Editor

When the word "fun" comes to mind, some of watching school football games, going out with friends or even swinging across the monkey bars at recess - not going to classes.

Maryville High School's new principal, Jason Eggers, wants to change negative views of school.

"I told the staff and the students on the first day that my No. 1 rule is to have fun. I want to have fun, and I want to enjoy what I am doing," Eggers said.

During his first year as principal, Eggers aims to focus on learning and listening, he said.

"The school has had, and the community has had, many successes, so I think it's just one of those that we want to continue to improve and make ourselves better as a school and as a community," Eggers said. "I would primarily try to implement some new grants and bring in new technology to the school."

New technology includes SMART Boards and SchoolPads that are already in use in the math and social studies departments, Eggers said.

When Eggers saw the job opening for principal, he thought it would be a good experience.

"I loved it at Mound City, but just felt that it was time to make that change and provide some more opportunities for my family," Eggers said.

Eggers always wanted to go into education and teach an area he really enjoyed, vocal music.

He also decided early on that he wanted to go into administration. The ability to continually learn is one of the many things he enjoys about education.

"I think in the education field you have to continually learn new things to make yourself better and its fun to

Eggers' education

1992 - Graduated from Camdenton High School in Camdenton, Mo.

1996 - Graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a degree in vocal music education.

1997-00 - Worked at Mound City High School district in K-12 vocal music.

2000 - Graduated from Northwest with a master's in secondary administration.

2000-07 - Principal of grades seven through 12 at Mound City.

2004-present - Obtaining his specialist degree from Northwest for superintendency.

"He demonstrates strong leadership for the school and he devotes his time and energy to it," Jelavich said. "He is a fun guy, he has a great sense of humor and connects with the kids on a one-on-one basis. He is off to a great start."

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JEFFERSON CITY

Planned Parenthood contests abortion bill

Nixon, DHSS spar over legal issues

By Sean Comer
Community News Editor

Federal Judge Ortrio D. Smith approved an injunction Monday that blocks a package of Missouri state legislature abortion regulations.

Smith's injunction sets the stage for a Sept. 10 District Court hearing to decide a suit filed by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. against Attorney General Jay Nixon, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel K. Knight; and Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney James F. Kanatzar.

Planned Parenthood seeks to block the implementation of House Bill 1055, according to an Aug. 20 press release. The bill's language strictly regulates abortion practices and education. The bill would subject outpatient abortion clinics to the same safety standards as other surgical centers. It would also ban all abortion providers from teaching or otherwise providing information in Missouri classrooms. Finally, it would establish the Alternatives to Abortion Public Awareness Program promoting the development of anti-abortion advertising and providing services to promote alternatives such as adoption.

"If the governor and his allies in the General Assembly were serious about reducing abortion, they would focus on unintended pregnancy, the root cause of abortion," said Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Missouri CEO Peter Brownlie in a press statement. "They should work with Planned Parenthood and other family planning agencies to see that all Missourians have access to comprehensive sex education and affordable family planning services."

A rift has developed between Nixon and Department of Health and Senior Services Director Jane Drummond. Nixon received a two-page letter from Drummond Aug. 22 announcing his removal as counsel for the DHSS. Drummond cited Planned Parenthood's past contributions to Nixon's campaign and Nixon's support of on-demand abortions as reasons she "did not believe she could trust [Nixon] to defend her or her department vigorously."

"Unlike you, most Missourians do not believe that abortion is an acceptable form of birth control," Drummond committed to Nixon in the letter. Drummond secured Kevin H. Theriot and Dale Schowengerdt of the Alliance Defense Fund of Kansas

City pro bono for the DHSS's defense.

Nixon responded immediately through a press release of his own. "For the Attorney General's office, this is about law, not politics," responded the Attorney General's office through Press Secretary John Fougere. "The legislature passed House Bill 1055, and as in the past, we will defend the law. We will certainly attempt to work with the Department of Health and Senior Services to make sure we have a coordinated, united defense."

Drummond addressed yet another public letter to Nixon. Monday, after Nixon filed an entry of appearance on behalf of the DHSS three days earlier—two days after Drummond's initial letter. Drummond once again openly criticized Nixon's conflict of interest.

"I read with interest footnote 1 in your brief where you state that you agree with Planned Parenthood and their motion," Drummond said. "You seek to represent me but decide that a motion by the plaintiff Planned Parenthood against my department's interests is one you can support."

Drummond's letter refers to a motion in a prior hearing requesting that Drummond's independent counsel be barred from the case. Footnote 1 in a respondent brief filed Aug. 24 by Nixon's attorneys states:

"Plaintiff referred to an assertion by defendant Drummond of potential conflicts between herself and defendant Nixon. Defendant Nixon as Missouri's Attorney General, is the person authorized to defend cases like this one in which the state's interests are involved..."

"The Attorney General is aware of, and has been directed to, no conflicts that would prevent his representation of both himself and defendant Drummond. The Attorney General is capable of, plans to, and is, representing the interests of all state defendants in this case. Therefore, defendants do not oppose plaintiff's motion to bar the defendant Drummond's separate counsel."

"This strikes me as just the kind of collaboration with Planned Parenthood that further indicates that you have a conflict of interest in this case," Drummond continued in her second letter. "I am asking that you cease and desist asserting that you are the lawyer for the department in this case."

The Attorney General's office offered no comment, other than to re-assert their statement following Drummond's first letter.

CITY BRIEFS

Historic restaurant auctioning supplies

After over 20 years of business, Simmons Village Restaurant at 14 Northside Mall in Maryville has closed.

Kernit Goslee Auctions will auction off a selection of items from the restaurant including tables, stoves, refrigerators and all other materials beginning at 10 a.m. at the restaurant's former location. Former owners Del and Bernice Simmons will be on-hand for the event as well.

Methodist Church buys old theater

The former Missouri Twin Cinema building on Main Street in Maryville has been purchased by the neighboring First United Methodist Church.

Pastor Matthew Sullivan said there are no immediate plans for the building and could not disclose the purchase price of the building.

Thomson to host campaign kick-off

Missouri Representative Mike Thomson hosts his 2007 campaign kick-off at 6 p.m. today at College Park.

Barbecue will be provided from Bubba's Championship Barbecue. The Toad-I-oller Gang, Hy-Vee, The Countryside Bistro, Bluff's Catering and the Smokehouse.

The event will also feature entertainment by magician Monty Stratton and a jazz ensemble from the Northwest music department. Northwest's own John Zelliff will be giving horse-drawn carriage rides.

Maryville receives Blunt's Dream Grant

Maryville, along with nine other Missouri communities, is the recipient of the 2007 Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri.

Care Mathison and Brad Lager will announce Maryville's addition to the DREAM community at 4 p.m. Thursday at Fourth and Market streets, near City Hall.

Communities are selected based on their downtown development plans and potential economic growth.

The DREAM Initiative's goal is to aid communities in increasing property and sales tax, jobs and investment in downtown area properties.

The ceremony is open to the public.

Hy-Vee hosts charity hot dog eating contest

Hy-Vee will host a charity hot dog eating contest and cookout benefiting Relay For Life Sept. 6.

The cookout runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and registration for the hot dog-eating contest begins at 6 p.m., competition beginning at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a free-will donation for hot dogs, chips, drinks and a \$10 registration fee for the hot dog-eating contest. For more information call (660) 254-0244.

www.nwmissourianews.com
See a Q and A with Maryville High School principal Jason Eggers

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Taking the Time to Care

Mods removed, lesson learned

Controversial issue resolved, but with bittersweet results

For those of you who have had the pleasure of taking classes in the former modular classrooms, or "mods," you are either taking delight or annoyance in the fact that they are now gone.

Perhaps you are a freshman and are completely lost, if so, here is a brief synopsis of the issue that came to a head late last spring.

For eight years the mods, or trailers, resided on the east side of campus, providing classroom space for nine of the required 42 general education credit hours. Up to 20 percent of campus went through the mods each day, so until now, if you were enrolled in classes it was more than likely you had at least a few in the mods.

Students and faculty alike had several issues with them, including heating and cooling problems, fire code regulation concerns and the final straw—the floor of one trailer was giving out. Not all of the mods were in bad condition; some of them were still usable—and are now relocated to places like Mazingo Lake where they are used for storage and office space.

After a few stories by the Northwest Missourian and St. Joseph's KQ2, who knows how many comment cards from students and a student forum held by Student Senate, it was announced that the mods would be removed and plans to remodel the lower level of Valk were in the works.

Those of us at the Northwest Missourian were happy that the student voice was heard and a brewing issue was addressed by the administration. We would like to commend the Board of Regents, President Dean Hubbard and the other administrators involved for listening to the student and faculty concerns and coming up with a solution. The situation highlights a number of positives, proving that student voices can be heard and that Northwest students truly care about their learning facilities. After all, we voted to have a \$3 increase per credit hour over the next 10 years just to get out of the trailers.

Unfortunately, this decision to remove all of the trailers came on the heels of what is now a 21 percent enrollment increase. Some will say you can't please everyone, but some students and faculty felt, and still believe, the solution to remove all mods, even those without structural problems, was a bit impulsive.

According to University officials, the lower level of Valk will not be completely remodeled until 2009, so students and faculty in the history, humanities, philosophy and political science department will have to wait another two years to have new offices and classrooms. Until then, for better or worse, students and faculty will spend at least a year spread out over campus.

While nothing can be changed now, perhaps in the future, issues like the mods should be addressed before they reach a boiling point. We at the Northwest Missourian hope that now more students will realize that they have a voice on campus and administrators realize it is their job to listen.

Have opinions? Want them heard?

The Northwest Missourian opinion page is looking for students and community members interested in being guest columnists or editorial writers for the fall semester.

So, if you're a political animal, a news fanatic or just need to get something off your chest, feel free to submit.

If you're interested contact us by calling us in the newsroom at 660-562-1224 or e-mailing us at northwestmissourian@hotmail.com. Letters to the editor can also be submitted via e-mail.

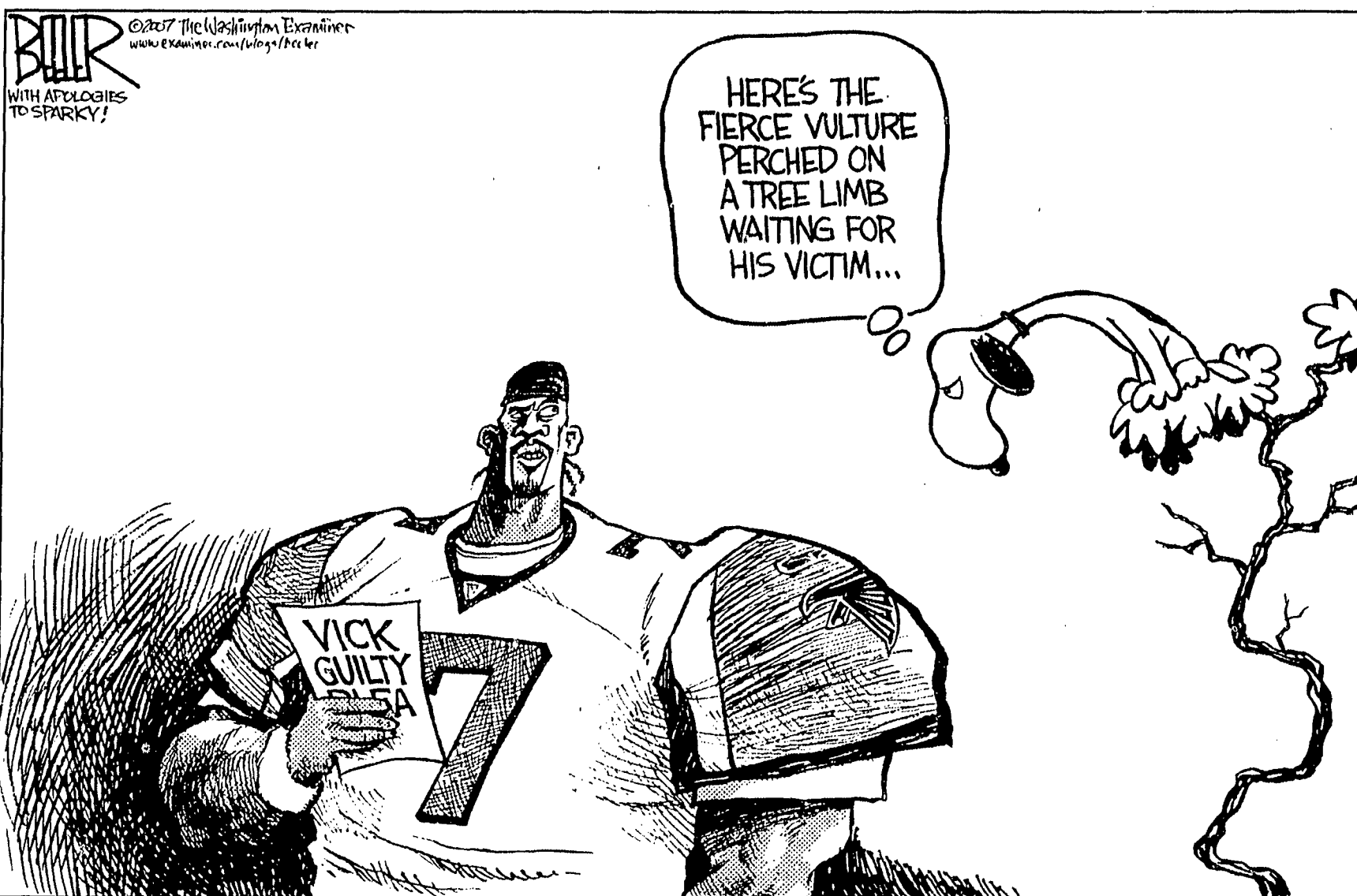
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www.nwmissourianews.com

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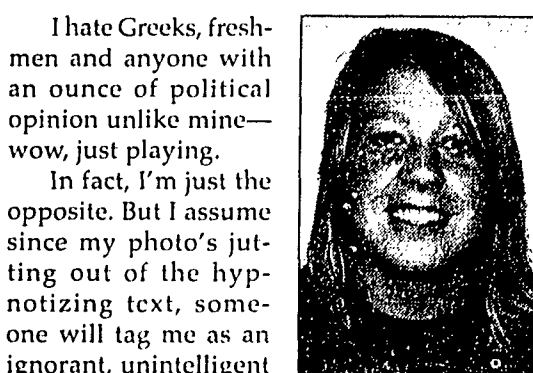
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MY VIEW

Editor welcomes letters, comments



Kristine Hotop
Editor in Chief

I hate Greeks, freshmen and anyone with an ounce of political opinion unlike mine—wow, just playing.

In fact, I'm just the opposite. But I assume since my photo's just out of the hypnotizing text, someone will tag me as an ignorant, unintelligent "newspaper person."

To clarify, I am that dreaded "newspaper person" but, this semester the entire Northwest Missourian staff is working to fix the invisible scarlet "A" stamped across the front of our paper. (That stands for "Absolutely, do not pick this up," or so newsstand quantity reveals.)

In fact, I believe the opinion

page fills the campus void as antagonist and receives the most backlash from students and community members. Every trimester, a staffer is (hypothetically speaking) burned at the stake for writing an opinion piece. With the ball back in our court, it's time for a new game plan.

Why, you may ask? Simple—the semester ended, and I'm hungry for more.

I want your opinions, I want to hear your voice and I want it to mean something.

Our school isn't any different than the hundreds of others nationwide, but why aren't the

students doing anything about what's bothering them?

We need an outlet, and that's the role the Missourian is taking.

E-mail me, call me, Facebook me, take me out for coffee—well, a little thing called "ethics" keeps that from happening, but you get my point. This is your campus and community paper, make it your own.

The opinion page isn't the sole change of our publication; staffers are working day and night (literally) to update our online version with breaking news and multimedia extras.

Our sports team fed live updates to Nwmissourianews.com during the first football game to notify site visitors of the postponement and cancellation.

Our new managing editor of convergence taught herself basics

of HTML code in less than two weeks and has done wonders to our online look.

I know it's sad only seeing the new Missourian once a week, but dry your tears because thanks to the Web, we're hoping to update daily.

We welcome letters to the editor, guest columnists and those interested in joining our editorial board.

Readers can also voice their opinion about individual articles by leaving comments online.

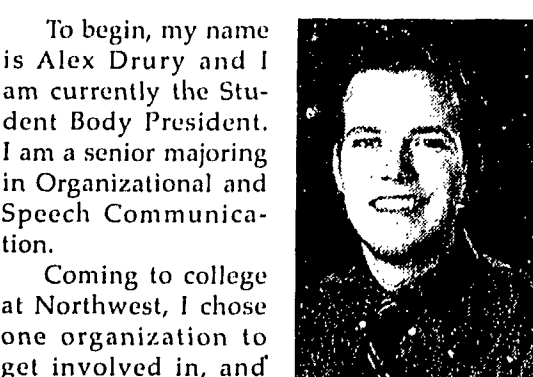
Quick—play devil's advocate and find something that really aggravates you, better yet, find something that annoys a lot of people and take the opposite side.

Seriously, making people mad is fun. Especially if you're right, which you always are...correct?

MY VIEW

President recalls time at Northwest

Drury encourages freshman to get involved in campus organizations, make the most of college



Alex Drury
Student Senate President

To begin, my name is Alex Drury and I am currently the Student Body President. I am a senior majoring in Organizational and Speech Communication.

Coming to college at Northwest, I chose one organization to get involved in, and that organization was Student Senate. I later became the co-chair of the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

My sophomore year also was

packed with Senate business until I received a Legislative Internship at the Missouri State Capitol for the 2006 session.

There, I worked for State Senator David C. Klink of Bethany. After leaving Northwest and being apart of the "real world" for an entire semester, I promised myself that I would live the college experience to the fullest once I returned.

Coming back to Northwest

was hard. I had lost contact with some friends and my place here was not apparent. The one place I felt comfortable was around the friends I have made in Student Senate.

While being Vice President, I continued to add more to my plate. I joined the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and am a proud member. I also joined the Ambassador team at Mabel Cook and have been enjoying it since. I joined Blue Key National Honorary Fraternity, Order of Omega (a Greek Honor Society), Mortar Board and Cardinal Key.

Getting more involved has

given me the opportunity to meet a number of individuals I may not have met otherwise.

Remember, if you do join an organization, a very small part of your life will be spent doing great things, but every day you will be called upon to do small things in a great way.

If you have any desire to get involved feel free to contact me. Also, keep your eyes posted for the Conventions handbooks and stop by the Student Senate office, located on the second floor of J.W. Jones Student Union in the Office of Campus Activities, or call 562-1820.

CAMPUS TALK

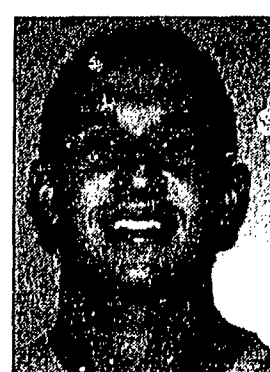
What do you think about the mods being removed?



"I could care less because I'll never have a class in there again in my life."
Jordan Willis
Chemistry



"I think it's great. Northwest's campus is so modern, I can't believe we had them in the first place. I think the Board of Regents were really unhappy when they found out we were in there."
Kaley Johnson
Business Management



"I think it's awesome because we don't look like white trash. But now we're taking classes in the Station and all over campus."
Mac Mohi
Marketing



"I never really minded classes in the mods. Other people were like 'they're ghetto' but I never really cared."
Sauphia Vormgsam
Advertising

MCT CAMPUS

Take a seat students: This is Debit Card Usage 101

By Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT (MCT) —Joseph Rizk, 20, figures it was one trip to Taco Bell that sent his checking account over the edge.

When he was a senior at Wayne State University, Rizk pulled out his Chase debit card to get some fast food. He spent about \$5 more than he had in his checking account. He didn't spot the trouble early enough and ultimately got hit with about \$350 in banking fees.

"I overdrew, and they pretty much pummeled me with charges," said Rizk, who graduated this summer with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

This is one story that's smart to share with anyone who is heading off to college. The debit card — no matter how cute all those commercials might be — isn't necessarily your best friend.

And at a time when many parents are struggling to cover higher tuition bills, the last thing a college student needs to do is trigger hundreds of dollars in senseless overdraft fees. Too. The fees add up quickly at \$25 to \$35 a pop.

Overdraft charges are costing people about \$17.5 billion each year, according to estimates by the Center for Responsible Lending, a consumer group that analyzed data on overdrafts. Banks have made it easier for consumers to overdraw their accounts and rack up big fees.

Young consumers who prefer paying with plastic, instead of paper, are vulnerable.

About 45 percent of overdrafts are attributed to using a debit card or taking out cash from the ATM, according to the center.

Pulling out a debit card to buy

fast food has turned into a financial tripwire.

"In the past you couldn't overdraft at McDonald's, now you can," said Eric Halperin, director of the Center for Responsible Lending's Washington office.

Three years ago, Halperin noted, most banks routinely denied debit card purchases at the checkout lane if you didn't have enough money in your checking account.

"The fact that you can overdraft with a debit card is relatively new," said Halperin, who favors legislation that would require banks to, among other things, disclose the annual interest rate on what consumer groups call overdraft loans to consumers. (Banks call the charges overdraft fees.)

In the last few years, banks and credit unions began allowing more debit card purchases to go through at checkouts as a convenience to consumers, even if there is not enough money in the checking account.

Most customers are routinely enrolled in so-called bounce-protection programs that, according to consumer groups, are not explained well and turn out to be expensive.

In many cases, consumers would pay less in fees if they went to the bank and set up a system to link the checking account to a savings account, a line of credit or a credit card to cover an overdraft.

For young consumers, the rules can be particularly tricky.

Some think they're in the clear because they've just checked their balances with tellers or online.

But that account balance often does not reflect how much money there is available to spend.

"We don't have real-time trans-

actions. There will always be outstanding transactions that the consumer has authorized but have not hit the bank," said Nessa Fedis, senior federal counsel for the American Bankers Association in Washington.

Rizk was upset that a teller never warned him the money he was depositing would go toward covering overdraft fees.

So after he deposited one check, he thought he had more money to spend. He kept spending, triggering more fees.

That's how a \$5 purchase started a chain of fees.

He begged for mercy at the bank, got some but still ended up paying \$150 in fees.

Now he buys fast food with cash.

While many consumers would never dream of writing checks for \$2 or \$3, the debit card makes it easy, and many young people see it as a convenience.

It's easy to forget that the debit card is really just a plastic version of a check.

"You've got to keep track of what you're spending, just as you did in the old days when you wrote checks," said Mary Kay Bean, a spokeswoman for Chase in Detroit.

And if you wait until you see the next statement, it's too late.

"The debit card is really where it's a serious problem," argues Ed Mierzwinski, the consumer program director of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Washington. "It's harder to keep track of your balance because of the tricks banks use."

Say you write a \$100 check to cover books, and then put \$5 on the debit card for coffee, \$15 on the debit card for dry cleaning and

then write a check for \$60 to cover a phone bill.

That's \$180 in transactions and checks. Say you had \$158 in the checking account. You're \$22 short.

Would you face one bounced check fee of \$34?

Probably not. The bank most likely would clear the \$100 check first. And then, the bank would attempt to clear the \$60 check. Whoops, you don't have enough to cover that check.

So then you're looking at three overdrafts — the \$60 check, the \$5 debit card and the \$15 debit card.

At \$35 a pop, that's \$105 in fees.

At some banks, there are extra fees if an account continues to be overdrawn for five or more business days.

"Everybody advertises free checking, but it's only free at the front end," Mierzwinski said.

Many consumers, of course, do not pay any fees for checking accounts.

About 65 percent of consumers spend \$3 or less in monthly fees for bank services, such as checking accounts and ATMs, according to a survey of 1,000 consumers.

The American Bankers Association released the survey last week.

Consumers who don't get hit with the fees typically balance their checksbooks, use direct deposit, don't make mistakes, keep plenty of money in savings and checking and avoid using debit cards for everything.

Yet consumer groups argue that overdraft fees often hit those who can least afford them.

A small group of consumers typically pays most of the overdraft fees.

MCT CAMPUS

NASA: No drunken space-bound astronauts

Internal investigation doesn't support assertions

By Martin Merzer
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI (MCT)—An internal investigation found no evidence to support assertions that several astronauts were impaired by alcohol when they flew in space, NASA reported Wednesday.

Bryan O'Connor, a former astronaut and the agency's chief of safety and mission assurance, conducted the month-long review of allegations included in a report released last month by an independent review panel.

That panel reported vague, anecdotal accounts of possible alcohol abuse by at least two astronauts in recent years.

One unidentified astronaut supposedly was drunk when he showed up for a shuttle launch.

Another unnamed astronaut supposedly was inebriated before boarding a Russian rocket for a flight to the International Space Station.

It turns out, NASA said, that both accounts were based purely on rumor that could not

be substantiated.

O'Connor said his team conducted 90 interviews and reviewed records of all flights during the past 20 years and could find no evidence to confirm the assertions.

"Within the scope and limitations of this review, I was unable to verify any case in which an astronaut space flight crew member was impaired on launch day or any case where a manager of a flight surgeon or co-crew member disregarded their recommendation that a crew member not fly the shuttle or Soyuz," O'Connor said in the report.

He said, however, that he has reminded astronauts and others at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that they should use hot lines and other means to report any concerns about flight safety.

"Also, NASA is preparing a focused anonymous survey as a follow up," O'Connor said in the report. "This survey will help to try to flush out any residual concerns in this and other areas covered by the committee report."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Aug. 15
■Fraudulent use of credit device, ongoing investigation

Aug. 17
■Joshua D. Roach, 25, Gladstone, driving while intoxicated, 100 E. Fourth

Aug. 18
■Tony J. Chavez, Kansas City, Missouri, resisting arrest, trespassing, failure to comply, wanted on warrant, 1000 N. Mulberry

■Sexual abuse, ongoing investigation, 500 N. Vine

Aug. 19
■Auburn K. Dellutri, 20, Blue Springs, driving while intoxicated, open container in vehicle, equipment violation

Aug. 21
■Property damage, vehicle, 800 S. Laura

Aug. 22
■John L. Brown, 20, Kansas City, wanted on warrant, failure to appear, 400 N. Vine

■Brianna M. Welch, 16, Maryville, failure to appear, 200 E. Third

Aug. 23
■Property damage, door frame, 1000 N. Mulberry

Aug. 24
■Ignacio Salazar-Romo, 24, Maryville, driving while intoxicated, careless and imprudent driving, 800 E. Fourth

Aug. 25
■Aaron R. Carpenter, 22, Maryville, indecent exposure, 200 W. Fourth

■Property damage, vehicle, 200 E. Fourth
■Recovered property, Jeep key, 100 E. Lieber

ACCIDENTS

Aug. 13

Stephanie A. Howard, 31, Maryville, received a citation for careless and imprudent driving at the intersection of Lawn Avenue and Main Street.

Aug. 22
■Treavor L. Kahler, 21, Maryville, collided with Brandy N. Taylor, 19, Maryville, at the intersection of Third Street and Munn

Aug. 23
■Daniel J. Docker, 18, Red Oak, Iowa, collided with Gail A. Booth, 51, Maryville, at the intersection of Lieber and Main Street

Aug. 25
■Rebecca J. Stone, Maryville; Rhonda J. McKinney, Maryville; and Amie C. Holben, Maryville, were involved in a three-car accident at the intersection of South Avenue and Main Street

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Isabel Willow Green, 7 pounds, was born on Aug. 23, 2007, at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville. She is the daughter of Danton and Dina Green of Maryville.

Her maternal grandparents are Dave and Melody Blair of Maryville, and her paternal grandparents are Buck and Barb Green of Auxvasse, Mo.

She has a sister, Emma Webb-Green.

Emalee and Ryan Langford

Twins Emalee Jane Langford, 4 pounds, 12 ounces, and Ryan Alan Langford, 4 pounds, 15 ounces, were born on Aug. 23, 2007, at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville. They are the daughter and son of Nathan and Misty Langford of Barnard, Mo.

Their maternal grandparents are Tommy and Sharon Farrer of London, England, and Paul and Rhonda Willette of Rural Retreat, Va. Their paternal grandparents are Craig and Collett Albright of Barnard and Bob and Wilda Langford of Big Springs, Tex.

They have a sister, Sarah Lang-

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STOP BY TODAY

ADVANTAGE: New students get settled in

continued from A1

Her first walk to class

On Friday morning Nikki I Hale described her first night in Maryville as "scary" because she is afraid of storms and her roommate had not yet moved in.

However, she was excited about attending her first Freshmen Seminar Class.

"It's a chance to get to know

people I'm going to school with," Hale said.

She said the class made her feel comfortable about starting college, and it helped her learn about the campus, she said.

Adjusting to life in Maryville
Cierra Williams is experiencing quite a change moving from Kansas City, Kan. to Maryville. In the city she could easily find something to do, but in Maryville she has to

search, she said.

The Merchant's Fair on Saturday allowed Williams to see some of Maryville's businesses. By the end of her stroll around the booths her arms were full of coupons, fliers and other free items.

"You can tell they (Maryville businesses) are interested in trying to make us feel welcome here," Williams said. "It seems like they have a lot of pride for the school."

EXCELLENCE: Lawsuit not immediate threat

continued from A1

and took effect Aug. 28.

Under the plan, introduced in January 2006 and revised numerous times, the state will use \$350 million in MOHELA funds to finance science and technology-oriented construction projects on a number of college campuses.

However, according to the class-action lawsuit, MOHELA cannot

legally use its money for purposes other than to provide low-interest loans to college students. It will be up to a Cole County judge to determine whether or not the plan is illegal and bring it to a halt.

For now, Hubbard is confident the center's money will reach Northwest. He said the first disbursement of MOHELA money, \$6.9 million, would reach the University around mid-October.

That money is equal to the amount the University originally spent in advance so it could receive the initiative funds for the center, Hubbard said.

"It's been a long ride. I'll be very pleased when that facility's all finished. We've got super high-tech science facilities for our students out there, job opportunities (and) research opportunities for faculty and students," Hubbard said.

1,500: Enrollment breaks 18-year University record

continued from A1

because if we do that then we are really not serving the public as best as we could be," he said. "Also, as you turn away all these students, they're not going to feel very good about Northwest in future years. It would have a long-term impact on our recruitment efforts."

However, Yang also questioned whether a large incoming class would be fair to current students and faculty members, especially those who take and teach general education courses.

Freshmen/transfer enrollment jumps usually impact the College of Arts and Sciences the most, because that's where the majority of general education courses are taught, said Dean Charles McAdams. However, having worked closely with department chairs since spring, McAdams said he is confident faculty members will be able to accommodate for the new students.

"I don't see this as a problem, but as a great opportunity for Northwest with this increased enrollment," McAdams said. "Northwest...has an obligation to admit students that

fully meet our admission standards and to try to accommodate for them, and our faculty members are certainly doing that."

Still, the adjustment is proving a bit of a challenge for some faculty members. Instructor Angela Bickford had to take on an overload—teaching more than four sections of a class—this semester with her General Chemistry 1 lab.

In addition, Bickford's Physical Sciences general education course, which typically boasts an average of 75 students, has 107 students this fall, she said.

Notified of an increase in early summer, Bickford said she had ample time to decide how she would handle it. Nevertheless, she still had to make some changes to the course. She'll no longer grade individual homework assignments and will have a tougher time facilitating the class discussions and interaction she enjoys having.

"The first day went well," she said of the first Physical Sciences class on Monday. "We'll see how the rest of the semester goes. I'm kind of nervous but try to keep a positive attitude about it."

Bickford will also consider scheduling peer Supplemental Instruction sessions for students who need tutoring.

"I anticipate some students are going to get lost within the course," Bickford said. "I anticipate more students coming to my office hours...I'm afraid I won't have time to tutor all students who need help."

Bickford said she appreciates the efforts of chemistry department Chair Rafiq Islam, who is "very receptive" to the department's needs and concerns.

"He's really good about looking out for the welfare of the people in his department," she said.

Earlier this month, Northwest's Board of Regents approved a 2 percent mid-year pay increase for all University employees. Part of the reason for this proposal was to recognize those who have to put in extra effort to handle the enrollment growth, said President Dean Hubbard during his State of the University address Aug. 24.

Both Schenkel and Yang said the University has most likely hit an enrollment peak and won't see this

ECON: Community support crucial

continued from A1

you just don't understand: we like to hear the word 'congestion'."

"The lot is small, but that all depends on what's coming in. You could certainly do a drive-thru-something there. And obviously it was a convenience store. It's a corner lot in a high-traffic area, and as the developer said, 'We like traffic.'"

Langerock echoes those sentiments for the equally desirable location of the former Fast Lane station across from Hy-Vee. Recently, work began to remove the gas tanks from the lot to make way for a new tenant.

"I think once they complete their clean-up, that's going to be a prime location," Langerock said. "That's got some great access, you could configure that how you want and there's great access."

Langerock insists the problems don't necessarily rest with the locations themselves. Filling them requires first, a business filling a need. After that, there needs to be a community willing-

ness to invest in its local businesses.

"When people come in [the Maryville Chamber of Commerce] office and say 'Why don't you get so-and-so in our community?', it's usually a franchise," Langerock said. "The challenge is, we don't have people coming in wanting to invest in the community. We just don't have those entrepreneurs coming in saying 'Hey, if you hear about this investment opportunity, this is what I'd like to do.'"

Kathy Rice's store, Movie Magic, has enjoyed 23 years of loyal community support. Nevertheless, Rice understands that the business community cannot help Maryville's distant location from major metropolitan markets.

"They [businesses] don't tend to get too excited because we're two hours from Omaha (Nebr.), Des Moines (Iowa) and Kansas City (Mo.)," Rice said. "I've had suppliers that won't pick me up because I'm in such a small market area."

Langerock points to the recent joining of Woodruff-Arnold Do-It

Center and Sears as a prime example of franchises thriving on community input. Keith Arnold owns the two businesses sharing a location on South Main Street. Arnold became interested in investing in a Sears franchise when he researched the company online and found that Sears had already targeted Maryville as a potential franchise home.

"Everyone wants to do business with a nationally recognized brand," Arnold said. "They've been around several years, and that provides security."

"They're two separate companies that saw a gap, a need where people said 'This is what we'd like to see here,'" Langerock said. "So they decided to invest in it, and those are local people investing in our community."

Even once a franchise agrees that Maryville can provide a secure home in its market, it shares a problem with local small businesses: The "dollars and cents" need to add up.

Bearcat Village Laundry
Open 24 hours to all NWMSD students
LAUNDRY
\$1.25 Wash
\$.25 Dry
Located behind Valk & Roberta Hall
Cable TV/Lounge Area, Pop Machine, Laundry Soap Dispenser, Security Camera

SPORTS | B2 MEL TJEERDSMA FIELD DEDICATED DURING GAME



FEATURES | B6

Senior Katie Kindler travels to Uganda to volunteer in an orphanage.

SPORTS

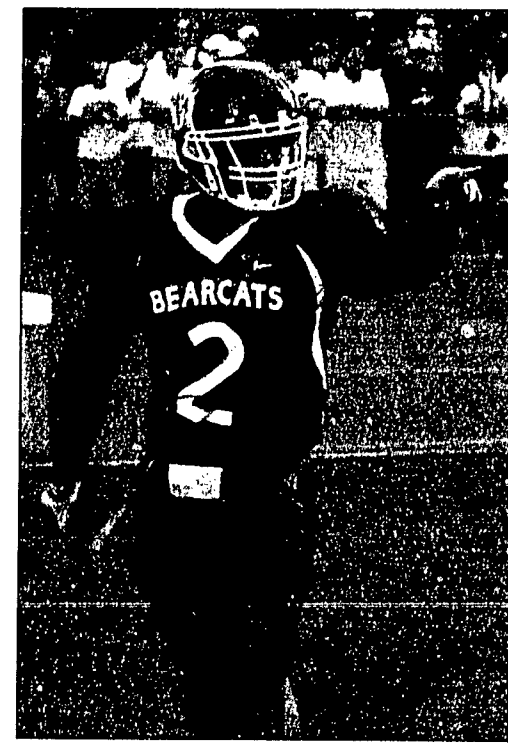
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NW FOOTBALL

Coaches cautious about long layoff

Bearcats utilize time to gear up for game against UNO

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor



NORTHWEST RUNNING back Xavier Omon points towards his team during the opener.

After last Thursday's abbreviated game, Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdsma couldn't say if he learned anything about his team in only 12 minutes of play.

But he was encouraged by what he saw.

"We came out and played extremely well on both sides of the ball and special teams," Tjeerdsma said after lightning ended play with 2:30 left in the first quarter with No. 2 Northwest up 21-0. "I think we found some things, but we probably didn't have 15 snaps on either side of the ball, so there's a lot of questions to be answered."

As Northwest prepares for its Sept. 8 match-up against the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Tjeerdsma and the coaching staff have worked this past week keeping the focus on the Mavericks and All-F. Caniglia Field—a venue Northwest hasn't tasted victory at since 1996.

"The important thing for us is that we got all of this feeling, but our kids have to feel the same way," Tjeerdsma said. "Tjeerdsma admits there are challenges in keeping the team focused, especially after a short-ened game."

Additionally, UNO will have a full game under its belt after they play in-state rival, the University

of Nebraska-Kearney, Saturday night.

"I feel like this team has responded really well to whatever we've asked them to do so far," Tjeerdsma said. "But I don't feel like we've practiced as well and I talked to them a great deal about this. So, that's been our challenge."

See LAYOFF on B4

So, who won?

Northwest and Arkansas Tech are awaiting a decision from the NCAA Division I Football Committee on whether Northwest will be able to keep the win. Officially, Northwest is 1-0, but because Tech is disputing the results, the committee will make a final ruling.

NW VOLLEYBALL

Bearcats split weekend tournament

Marcus Meade
Ass't. Sports Editor

It just slipped away.

The Bearcats were two games up in their last match of last weekend's Nebraska-Kearney Volleyball Classic, and the match simply slipped away.

They lost 3-2 to Northern State (S.D.) making them 2-2 for the tournament.

"It was very frustrating. We could have just finished it," red-shirt freshman setter Katie Swenson said. "It's one thing when it's a ranked team that's a really good team, and you're trying too hard, but it's another level of frustration when you know that you can beat them."

The tournament started well for the "Cats" when they came back after losing their first game against Montevallo (Ala.) winning 3-1.

Swenson led the team with 55 assists while Rachel Nisi used the assists to gather a team high 18 kills.

After the first match victory, the "Cats" lost 3-0 to eventual tournament champions Nebraska-Kearney only to bounce back with a 3-0 sweep of St. Martin's University.

The "Cats" rollercoaster play can be contributed to the teams chemistry, junior middle hitter Amy Bohner said.

"I guess it's because we feed off of each other. When one person's doing good another person starts picking it up, and we just build off of each other,"

Bohner said.

"At the same time, I think we kind of did the opposite. When one person started doing badly we started second guessing ourselves."

The final match against Northern State decided who took second place, and after taking a 2-0 lead things began to unravel.

"In games one and two we had 100% blocks," coach Anna Tool said. "In games three, four and five, we had a total of one."

Defense may have been match four's most glaring problem, but offensive inconsistency was the underlying problem of the tournament, Tool said.

"Our attacking offensively was not as consistent as it needed to be," Tool said. "(In) the first match, we had a very high hitting percentage, but then after that first match from then on our hitting percentage went way down. We had too many unforced errors."

Northwest's record of 2-2 was good enough to place third in the five-team tournament, but the experience gave Tool a chance to learn about her team.

"When we have excellent ball control, and the players are confident and aggressive, we're tough to stop," Tool said.

Bohner and Swenson ended their tournament experience by being named to the all-tournament team.

The "Cats" will play Arkansas-Monticello in the St. Edwards Volleyball Classic at 10 a.m., Aug. 31, in Austin, Texas.

LOUISIANA LOVE

Northwest lineman finding home nearly 2 years after Katrina

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Tattoos tell a story.

Tattoos serve as a dedication for a loved one. They also remind us of where we came from.

On the chest of freshman offensive lineman Julius Nero III, is his home state of Louisiana and the letters "o," "v," "e," with water dripping down from each letter. Written inside the state are the names of his parents, Julius II and Brenda, and the date they were married: Dec. 25, 1971.

"That's real love. They still together," Nero III said. "They love us. They take care of us. Anything we need, they're there for us."

In August 2005, the Nero family needed each other more than ever when Hurricane Katrina invaded the gulf coast. Initial weather reports had Katrina missing New Orleans. The family stayed, having experienced a false alarm during Hurricane Ivan missed Louisiana in 2004. When Katrina upgraded to a Category-5 storm, meaning the storm had winds over 155 miles per hour, it was time to leave.

The family got in their Ford Expedition with only the clothes on their back and enough for an extra day. Julius II points to recent car trouble before Katrina as a sign from God. After the family had finished shopping one day, the engine in their recently purchased 2003 Suzuki had failed.

"I believe the Lord told us to buy a larger vehicle to prepare us and to get all of us out," Julius II said.

As they left New Orleans, they believed they would return home. Julius III thought he would resume his football career at McDonogh 35 High, where he was an All-District and Preseason All-Metro pick entering his senior season. Instead, his football trophies, academic trophies, family pictures, baby pictures, birth certificate, and Social Security card all washed away.

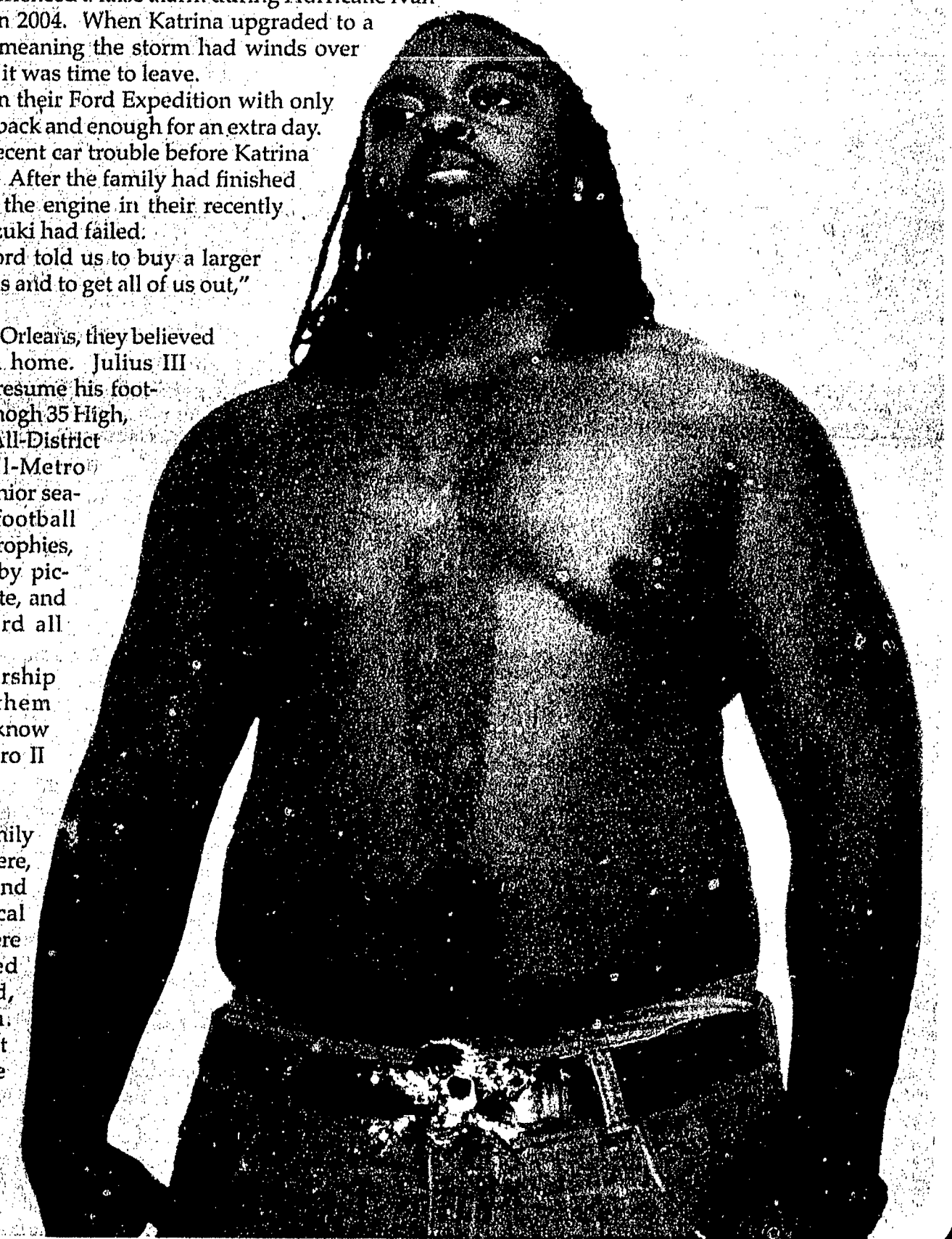
"He had scholarship offers, but lost them because they didn't know where he was," Nero II said.

Starting Over
Julius and his family arrived in Texas. There, they received food and donations from local churches. It was there that Nero III called home to his friend, Donald Callahan. They talked about the storm back home and how Callahan's home was beginning

See NERO on B4



JULIUS NERO III displays a tattoo commemorating his parents' wedding anniversary. The tattoo is a lasting memory of his family life growing up in New Orleans.



MHS FOOTBALL

13-year losing streak stares down Spoofhounds

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

The last time Maryville beat Chillicothe Hammer was 2 Legit, Joe Montana was wearing red and yellow, and none of the Spoofhounds had begun kindergarten.

Yes, 1993 was a long time ago. Maryville coach Chris Holt believes the Hornets' stranglehold on the 'founds may have as much to do with mentality as talent.

"Unfortunately, this might be one of those teams that the kids have something in the back of their minds and always find a way to let it slip away," Holt said.

This year, Maryville, who finished 4-6 in 2006, comes prepared as they return an astounding 17 starters from last year's squad. Every offensive skill position

starter returns, including senior quarterback Andy Waller, junior running back Adam Mattison, and senior running back Malcolm Swinford.

The experienced backfield bodes well for the 'founds, who plan to attack almost exclusively from the ground.

"We will run first, run second and throw when we need to, and that's just the way we're going to be," Holt said.

At Friday's jamboree, Maryville moved the ball well against opponents Carrollton, Marshall and Trenton, Holt said. Defensively, they allowed only one score.

While Holt viewed the scrimmage as a success from a defensive standpoint, defensive coordinator



SENIOR MARYVILLE quarterback Andy Waller throws a pass during practice Tuesday. The Spoofhounds travel to Chillicothe at 7 p.m., Friday.

Season Tickets on Sale Now for Northwest Missouri State University's 2007-2008 Encore Series

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29
War Bonds: Songs and Letters of World War II
General Public: Orchestra \$20, Balcony \$18
Northwest student with valid ID: Orchestra \$15, Balcony \$13
Take a musical journey through a war that redefined the world. This living history cabaret is interspersed with personal letters from the front and headline news of the period. Actual veteran's stories create a sentimental journey back through the days when blackouts and rationing were a small sacrifice in order to obtain freedom. War Bonds transcends generations by rekindling memories and providing a history lesson.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30
St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre performing "Carmen"
General Public: Orchestra \$20, Balcony \$18
Northwest student with valid ID: Orchestra \$15, Balcony \$13
The company, founded as the first Theatre of Ballet in Russia, will give the audience a four-act performance of "Carmen." This famous opera features Carmen, a Spanish gypsy; a soldier, Don Jose; his girlfriend, Micaela; and Escamillo, a hunky bullfighter. It's a story of love and betrayal that ends in death.

7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11
Ring of Fire
General Public: Orchestra \$25, Balcony \$23
Northwest student with valid ID: Orchestra \$20, Balcony \$18
The music of the "Man in Black," legendary Johnny Cash, ignites the stage in this new Broadway musical featuring 38 signature songs that were performed by Cash. Stories of passion, redemption, humor and salvation set the stage ablaze in this musical celebration of the world's most favorite rebel. With favorites like "Walk the Line," "Hurt," "Folsom Prison Blues," "A Boy Named Sue," and the title track "Ring of Fire," audiences will tap their toes, stomp their feet and shout for more.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13
Parsons Dance Company
General Public: Orchestra \$25, Balcony \$23
Northwest student with valid ID: Orchestra \$20, Balcony \$18
Since 1987, The Parsons Dance Company has thrilled audiences on six continents, having given more than 1,500 performances and a great many educational and community outreach residency activities. Parsons takes seriously its mission to make modern dance accessible to the widest possible audience throughout the world. The company is comprised of nine full-time dancers and maintains a repertory of more than 70 works (20 with commissioned scores) by artistic director and founder David Parsons.

Distinguished Lecture Series
(All Lectures are FREE and Open to the Public)

8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1
Andrew Sullivan
One of the most provocative political and social commentators today, Sullivan is a senior editor of *The Atlantic* and a columnist for *The Sunday Times of London*. He was one of the first journalists to experiment with blogging. In his latest book, "The Conservative Soul: How We Lost It, How to Get It Back," Sullivan makes an impassioned call to rescue conservatism from the Republican far right.

8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17
Jeffrey Toobin
One of the nation's most esteemed experts on politics, media and the law and with unparalleled journalist skill, Toobin is a legal analyst for CNN, a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and is a best-selling author. He has provided analysis on numerous major events, including the O.J. Simpson trial, the Kenneth Starr investigation and impeachment of President Bill Clinton, and the disputed Florida recount of the 2000 presidential election.

8 p.m. Tuesday, March 18
Barbara Martinez Jitner
Martinez Jitner is an executive producer of *American Family*, the series that made history as the first Latino family drama on broadcast television. It debuted on PBS in January 2002. As president of El Norte Productions, Martinez Jitner is developing several feature films. She is the inspiration behind the 2007 Jennifer Lopez film, "Bordertown," based on her research of the Mexican town of Juarez, notorious for the murders of more than 400 women.

HOW TO PURCHASE ENCORE TICKETS:
By phone: (660) 562-1212
In person: from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at Northwest's Student Services Center, first floor Administration Building
Online: at www.nwmissouri.edu/tickets/
For Group Discounts, call (660) 562-1226

NW FOOTBALL



MARYVILLE MAYOR Chad Jackson presents Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdsma with a plaque commemorating "Mel Tjeerdsma Day" in the city.

Weather holds for dedication ceremony

Northwest immortalizes long-time head coach with field dedication

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Mel Tjeerdsma always wanted to be a football coach since graduating from high school.

Last Thursday night, Northwest honored the 13-year coach who's won two national championships and eight MIAA championships in a pre-game dedication ceremony of "Mel Tjeerdsma Field."

As Northwest president Dean Hubbard introduced Tjeerdsma as the "best football coach in the country," there was a standing ovation as Tjeerdsma acknowledged the crowd.

"I want to thank God for putting me here," Tjeerdsma said to the crowd of 7,990. "There were times in my 13 years here I thought I was leaving here. But he knew better and because of that, today has happened."

Tjeerdsma also spoke about his appreciation to his wife, Carol, current and former coaches and players.

In addition, he thanked for-

mer Northwest athletic director Jim Redd for hiring him in 1994 and current AD Bob Boerigter for all of his work.

In the end, Tjeerdsma was ready to get down to business as he began his closing remarks.

"I have two things to say," Tjeerdsma said to the crowd. "(Former Northwest coach) Ryland Milner once said, 'Once a Bearcat, Always a Bearcat.' I'll always be a Bearcat. And No. 2, eight minutes from now we've got a game to play, so let's get after them."

As Tjeerdsma sprinted to his team, the Tjeerdsma family pulled off the tarp, revealing the name "Mel Tjeerdsma Field" above the north end zone.

"It's a tremendous honor," Tjeerdsma said. "I was so thrilled that my family was all here and got to be a part of that."

After comments from several dignitaries, Maryville mayor Chad Jackson presented Tjeerdsma with a plaque, commemorating "Mel Tjeerdsma Day" in the city.

NW FOOTBALL

LIGHTNING STRIKES DOWN SEASON OPENER

Fans, coaches and players react to lightning-shortened season opener against Arkansas Tech

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

As the sky faded to black, distant low rumblings brought something 23-year college coaching veteran Mel Tjeerdsma had never seen.

These rumblings didn't signify the steady sound of the cannon blasting after the three scores Northwest accumulated during the game's first five minutes. Instead, it represented thunder, which brought with it enough lightning to delay the game one-hour and 11 minutes and eventually cancel the season's opening contest against Arkansas Tech.

As rain showered the field and flashes of light streaked across the sky, fans and players were herded into the locker room and Bearcat Arena.

Fans, coaches and players experienced not only the first lighted regular season game since 1977, but a weather delay never seen during the Tjeerdsma era.

"I've been through a game when there was a delay on the start of the game, but we waited for the weather to pass and then started," Tjeerdsma said. "I've never had anything like that."

During the delay, the football team rested and waited for the weather to pass, sitting and watching the Kansas City Chiefs preseason contest against the New Orleans Saints.

Wide receiver Kendall Wright was one of those Bearcats watching the NFL game. Before the break, Wright accumulated four receptions for 48 yards, until the cancellation erased all the statistics earned during the game.

The delay derailed Wright's motivation from before the weather interference.

"We didn't really focus that much during the break," Wright said. "We lost a lot of motivation during that time. It seemed easy to get warmed up physically when they called us back on the field, but it was just hard to get your brain working again."

Tjeerdsma said if the staff could have done anything different, it would be to keep players more focused.

"The coaching staff talked about adjustments, but in reality we could have done a better job and getting the players ready to play," Tjeerdsma said. "It was hard to get the guys ready again after sitting for over an hour. But now we can learn from this experience."

But while the football team watched the Chiefs, the rain-soaked fans were escorted into Bearcat Arena. This was a welcome site for the remainder of fans not exiting for home. Most fans were dressed in white T-shirts because of the game's "White Out" promotion.

As the fans sat in the arena for over 20 minutes, band director Carl Kling decided to treat the remaining Bearcat faithful with music.

"Well we got called in and after awhile, we looked around and said why not," Kling said. "The fans loved it and the band wanted to play."

Along with the band, the cheerleaders performed the rest of the waiting period. Northwest fan Terri Jackson said her family was delighted to see the performance.

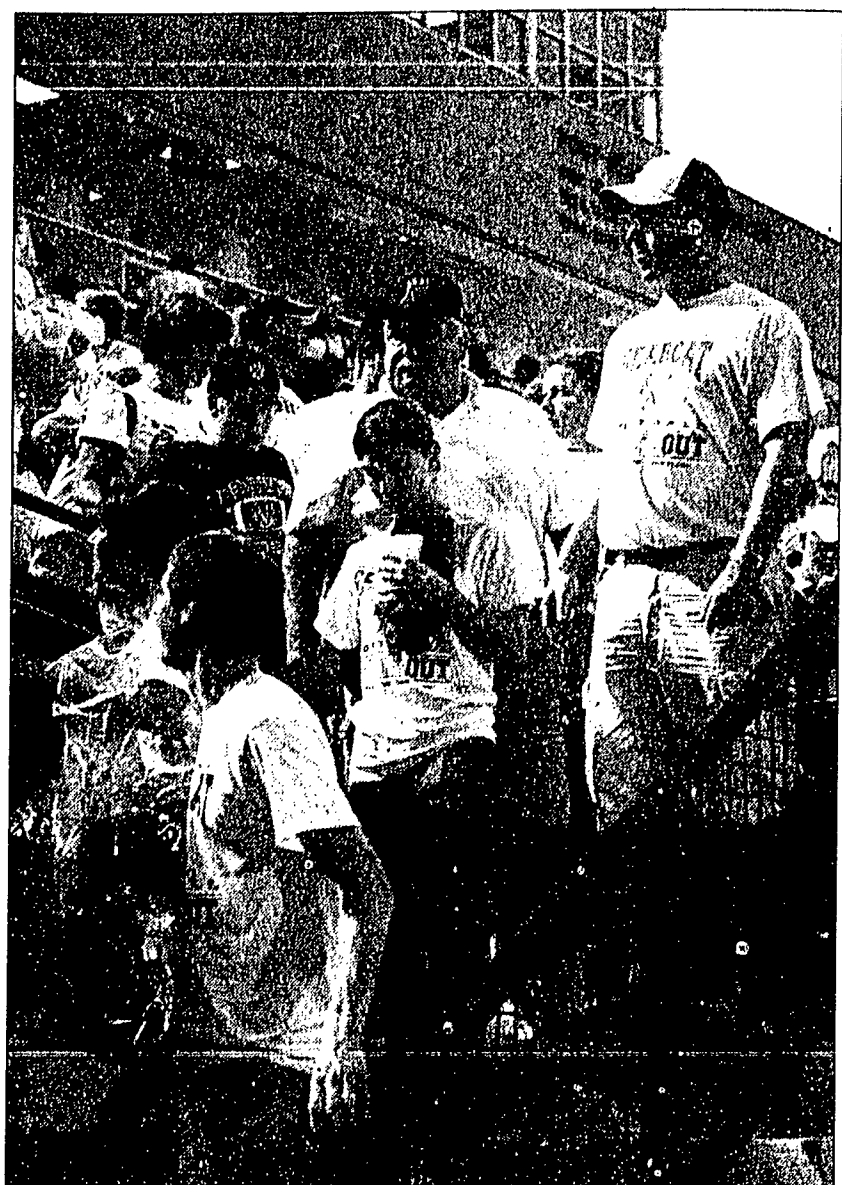
"We wanted to stick around through the whole game," Jackson said. "We went to the gymnasium and listened to the band and watched the cheerleaders. It was great, and the University should be proud of their band."

However, the wait ended after the officials met with each team's coaching staff and decided to begin play at 9:05 p.m.

Only 14 minutes later, the game was called.

As the stadium returned to its empty state, fans returned home with a different memory than expected at the game's beginning.

Instead of remembering the field dedication ceremony, the lights or the turf, fans will most likely remember the 2007 football opener for one aspect — the weather.



NORTHWEST FANS were enjoying a 21-0 lead before lightning ended the season opener against Arkansas Tech.

7:10 p.m. "Mel Tjeerdsma Field" dedication takes place before kickoff.

7:54 p.m. Lightning is spotted, delaying the game.

9:19 p.m. Game is called off with Northwest leading 21-0.

7:34 p.m. Kickoff Northwest—Arkansas Tech

9:05 p.m. Play resumes after one-hour 11-minute delay.

SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS SOFTBALL

Gadbois' 2-run double seals win

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

After stranding runners in nearly every inning, the Maryville softball team was in danger of giving away its conference opener.

That was until freshman Taylor Gadbois stepped into the box in the fifth inning and ripped a two-out double that brought home the only two runs of the game.

Coach Jacqui Conn breathed a sigh of relief after the center fielder's hit as her team finally cashed in on a scoring opportunity.

"That was a big relief for us and she's actually done a great job for us recently, getting a lot of clutch hits," Conn said. "We had runners in scoring position all day but we couldn't get that hit to bring people home."

On a bright, humid day at Donaldson Park, extra base hits were at a premium for both MEC squads with the Spoofhounds and Dragons trading singles throughout most of the game.

The southpaw Walker was nearly flawless through four innings, shutting out the Dragons and setting them down in order in the fourth.

But Maryville failed to answer in the bottom half, stranding two runners. After Walker shut down the Cameron bats again in the fifth, her counterparts finally bailed her out.

Erica Espey was the first runner to reach base after being hit by a pitch and Jordan Gadbois followed that up with a single down the left-field line. A passed ball then moved Espey and Jordan to second and third with two outs. Taylor's double to left brought both of them home to give Walker a 2-0 lead heading into the sixth.



SOPHOMORE FIRST BASEMAN Mariah Stiens fouls off a ball during Tuesday's conference opener against Cameron. The 'Hounds won 2-0.

"I was really excited (about the double) because there were two outs and we hadn't scored yet," Taylor said.

But after walking two batters and allowing a single, Walker was pulled in favor of first baseman Mariah Stiens. The southpaw reliever got a huge break on her first batter when catcher Jordan Wallace spotted the runner at third drifting away from the bag and subsequently threw her out. Stiens fanned two of the next four batters to earn the save.

"That was a huge momentum switch," Conn said. "We went from bases loaded with one out to first and second with two outs. It was a much easier situation especially because we had the new pitcher coming in. It completely took the wind out of their sails and put the game away."

Maryville is now 3-0 and 1-0 in the MEC and travels to Lafayette for a JV/Varsity doubleheader at 4:30 today.

MHS VOLLEYBALL

Season opener slips away from 'Hounds

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Game one went just as planned for the Maryville High School volleyball team in Tuesday's season opener against Clarinda, Iowa. However, the next two games did not go as well-planned as the first.

The Spoofhounds opened the contest with a 25-20 victory, but lost 25-22 and 26-24 in the next two games. Maryville head coach Lori Klaus said the team let down after a few errors.

"In that second game, one error led into too many," Klaus said. "We got down on ourselves, but we battled back at the end of the game."

Maryville opened the second game with a 6-1 advantage and looked poised for a sweep. However, after Maryville led 8-4, Clarinda mounted a 14-2 advantage giving them an 18-9 lead.

But the 'Hounds came back and outscored the Cardinals 9-2 to cut the deficit to two points. After leading 23-22, Clarinda extended the match to a deciding game three with a 25-22 game two win.

Leah Wilmes said communication dwindled during the match's

final two games.

"Our best talking happened in the first game," Wilmes said. "We had some let downs in these final games, that we didn't have in our first."

With the match tied at one game apiece, the 'Hounds and Cardinals battled back-and-forth during the deciding game three.

With the score notched at 19 points apiece, the teams traded points until each team mustered 24 points apiece. Clarinda ended the contest with a 26-24 game three victory.

"This was a good team for us to face," Klaus said. "They were hard to put the ball down on and were really scrappy."

Senior setter Jennifer Seipel said this game was a good indicator for where the team stands.

"We're still getting used to each other," Seipel said. "We needed to push to get that win, and we just didn't do it."

Jordan Stiens tallied 10 kills and six blocks, while Abbie Florca had 12 digs. Jessica From recorded four kills and four aces.

The 'Hounds return to action today, at the Fairfax tournament. Maryville returns to action when it finishes the tournament Saturday.



SAM MCGINNESS prepares to spike the ball against two Clarinda defenders during Tuesday's 2-1 season opening loss.

MHS SOCCER

'Hounds brave heat in blowout win over Knights

By Marcus Meade
Assistant Sports Editor

Showing up late for Maryville's opening game of the Barstow Invitational soccer tournament against Lutheran High School-Kansas City on Tuesday may have meant missing it.

The Spoofhounds dominated the Knights 10-0. The game was stopped in the 45th minute in accordance with the mercy rule.

"It was amazing," Maryville coach Stuart Collins said. "It was the 3:40 mark before we scored, and then they started throwing them in."

They may not have been literally throwing goals in, but goals came in bunches with seniors Steven Scheffe and Clay Talmadge having three and two goals respectively, and junior Jon Rogers striking three of his own. Rogers also

tallied three assists.

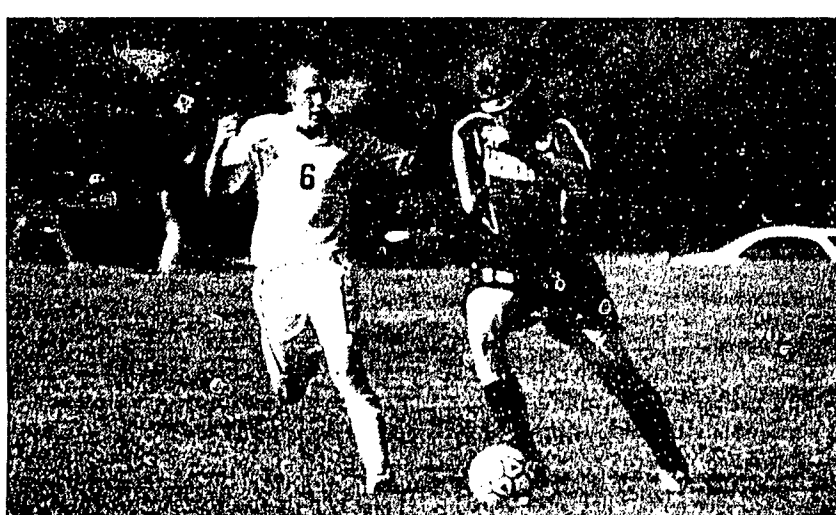
"It feels great," Scheffe said. "Especially when it's not just me but the whole team doing great."

Scheffe celebrated the second hat trick of his career, and did so because of a team effort to aggressively attack the goal, he said.

"We were quick tonight. We were quicker even than last night," Collins said. "The communication was excellent."

The 'Hounds also played on Monday, beating the Lafayette Fighting Irish 2-0 with Talmadge and Scheffe contributing a goal apiece in a heated contest. Heated in more than one way.

Temperatures reached the nineties on both days, according to the National Weather Service. Luckily, Collins was able to play all 22 players on Tuesday, which



SENIOR MIDFIELDER Zack Johnson chases down a Lafayette player in the second half of Monday's conference match-up at Donaldson Park.

helped players deal with the heat.

The 'Hounds will play their second game today in Barstow against The Barstow School.

"Right now we have two shut-outs for our keeper," Collins said. "We'd like to keep it that way."

NW CROSS COUNTRY

Alumni meet proves as early indicator for young Bearcat squad

Northwest alumni return to Maryville and attempt to tackle shortened cross country course

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Northwest men's cross country coach Richard Alsop summed up Saturday's Alumni meet best with one line.

"Well eight or 10 alumni will come back well overweighed and will walk most of the course," Alsop said.

The 5,000-meter course is short for a regular cross country meet, but this contest is designed to accommodate various Northwest graduates attempting to complete a Northwest sanctioned event. Alsop said this race focuses more on alumni getting back together with old friends, not on whether some will cut through the course,

or need a head start.

"Some of our alumni receive head starts, and other different advantages," Alsop said. "But the real race is between our current team."

And that current team must replace last year's top two runners, Matt Pohren and Drew Wilson. Pohren finished first among teammates in every race last year, while Wilson regularly finished right behind Pohren.

Saturday's race should be a good indicator as to where the team stands, Alsop said. Brandon Dart and Bichod Deng return as the team's front-runners for the top two spots. Deng placed second twice on the team last season, while Dart recorded one second

place finish.

However, the Bearcats feature eight new runners on a team picked to finish seventh in the conference.

Newcomers include a mixture of junior college transfer students and freshmen.

Freshmen Kaden Myers and Terol Pursell are two of the new runners, and after a week's worth of practice, they're ready to see who vaults to the team's top tier of runners.

"This race will be fun to see where we are as a team," Myers said. "We've been battling it out in practice, and now we see where we rank against our other teammates."

Pursell seconded Myers

thoughts about runners separating themselves from their teammates.

"After the top two spots, it's really close between the rest of us," Pursell said. "During practice we run as a group and we just run together. Now, we'll see who can challenge for the top seven."

The Alumni meet begins at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, at the Northwest cross country course.

The women's cross country team does not start action until Sept. 8, when they host the Bearcat/Spoofhound Invitational in Maryville.

Look for a season preview of both the men and women's teams in the Fall Sports Preview in next week's Northwest Missourian.

NW SOCCER

Soccer starts homestand after falling in season opener

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

If Northwest never returns to Fayette, Iowa, this season, that would suit Amy Jackson and Krista Obley just fine.

It wasn't because of the Bears' 1-0 loss to Upper Iowa in last Friday's home opener, but the playing conditions at Pattison Field. In the days leading up to the match, rain had pelted the area.

"It felt like you had 10-pound weights strapped to your feet. It was not fun at all," Jackson said. "It was like playing in a mud pit. Balls would get stuck in a puddle. We'd go back and forth with the other team, trying to get it out."

Obley agreed.

"It was miserable," Obley said. "But I think if that was a practice situation, it would've been fun sliding around."

This weekend, Northwest can expect better playing conditions when they begin a weekend homestand, 2 p.m., Friday against St. Cloud (Minn.) State and ending at 1 p.m., Sunday, against Wayne (Neb.) State. In the season opener, the Bearcats outshout the Peacocks, 15-7, but allowed a goal in the 64th minute.

"We had opportunities that we should've put away," Northwest coach Tracy Hoza said. "But from a defensive point of view, we have to defend better as a team."

Jackson knows the team is capable of so much more and hopes to make a statement this weekend. In home openers, Northwest is 3-1 under Hoza and were 6-3-1 at Bearcat Pitch last season.

"I know we're better than that,



NORTHWEST FORWARD Kelsey Sanders participates in passing drills Tuesday afternoon at Bearcat Pitch.

because we have one of the strongest defenses in the MIAA," Jackson said.

St. Cloud comes in with a 1-1 record in its first game against Northwest and are lead by goalkeeper Elizabeth Kelly, who earned Northern Sun Freshman of the Year honors. Wayne State is 0-2 and is 3-1-1 all-time against Northwest. In August 2006, Northwest fell 1-0 to the Tigers.

With a sweep this weekend, Hoza will pass Joann Wolf (1999-2002) on the school's all-time wins list with 23. Wolf coached Northwest during its inaugural season in 1999. Hoza acknowledged the milestone, but stressed the importance of her team improving.

"It's a matter of fine-tuning everything," Hoza said. "It's pretty fixable."

MHS CROSS COUNTRY

Jones, Elliott lead during season opening Invitational



Shelby Jones and Josh Elliott each recorded fifth place finishes during Maryville High School's opening meet in Maryville.

Jones finishes with a time of 24:47.7, while Elliott completed the course in 18:50.

Seth Staashelm and Alex Thompson finished 10th and 11th respectively for the boys. Staashelm recorded a time of 20:03 and Thompson finished at 20:10.

Maryville's Ashley Blanchard ran a 26:20.6, good enough for 12th place.

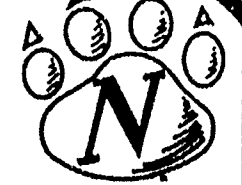
TWO MARYVILLE runners compete during the Maryville Invitational Tuesday, while the boys await the race's start.



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COLUMN

No sympathy necessary for disturbed quarterback

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor



Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

When Michael Vick finally announced he was taking the plea deal last week, I thought some of this madness would stop. It didn't.

Monday, when the deal became official, I hoped for some relief now that the process had reached a halt, but there was none. Numerous people are still defending this man.

Though people have the right to support whomever they choose, I can't fathom one intelligent reason as to why so many have come to the defense of this disturbed man. Granted, Vick wasn't the only one charged, and I'll bet he wasn't as involved with the actual killing of the dogs the way his three co-defendants were, but the severity of the crimes, while sick and horrific, is not the key ingredient in this ordeal.

The biggest issue I have with anyone who supports this man is they are defending one of the biggest idiots in the history of sports.

There is no other way to spin this. Vick was in the midst of a 10-year, \$130 million contract, and was easily one of the top five superstars in the NFL. He was the most popular player in Atlanta sports history: a game-changing black quarterback in the city with the highest black population (among the 30 NFL cities) and with athletic ability that comes along once in a generation. In terms of athleticism, marketability and location, no one had a more complete package than Vick.

With a city at his fingertips and a league at his mercy, Vick had 130 million reasons not to commit crimes.

But all of those reasons didn't stop him from making one of the worst decisions in human history, right up there with Hitler invading Russia or 20th Century Fox green-lighting Big Momma's House 2.

In financing Bad Newz Kennels since his first year in the league, Vick managed to get away with this felonious operation for nearly six years.

He probably thought he was bulletproof like his NFL contemporaries Ray Lewis, who was found not guilty of murder, or Leonard Little, who somehow managed to serve only three months in jail after a drunk driving incident left a woman dead.

You can't realistically compare humans' lives to dogs but if you have access to tens of millions and you're taking time to drown, hang and electrocute pit bulls in your spare time, you're clearly a sick individual. Yes, there are several current

NFL players who've served time, but this is not your token DUI or a drug-related crime—this was calculated torture.

Yet, many still defend, by holding up signs to contrast the picketing of the PETA protesters, choosing

to believe he was the victim of a conspiracy. At a protest outside the Richmond, Va. courthouse Monday morning, the contingent of supporters outnumbered the picketers, armed with vivid signs and loud prayers despite their "hero" admitting to financing the ring and killing dogs.

This is appalling because he admitted guilt. Do his apologists think he shouldn't go to jail for his role in a felony? Even if it was a racial conspiracy to get the case to federal court, it only saved Vick because the federal maximum sentence for dog fighting is five years, as opposed to 40 in Virginia. Had this case come up in state court, Vick and his boys would face a much darker future.

Furthermore, how could someone refute that or so ignorantly condone the killings of these animals? If supporters want to play the race card, fine, but defending an insanely rich man who's admitted guilt in a demented crime only hurts credibility for cases where race is a factor.

Even though Vick's press conference Monday morning sounded more like a plea to get the judge to reduce his prospective sentence than a true apology, I respect him for manning up and making no excuses—but I don't feel sorry for him. This kind of unprovoked cruelty should be apologized for under no circumstances.

No, I don't think he is the only pro-athlete to have partaken in dog fighting, but he probably had the most reasons not to do so.

One of the supporters reminded an ESPN.com reporter that Vick donated over \$300,000 to help fund an Atlanta church. While that's a sizeable donation, I'm sure it was only a fraction of the money he spent to fund his operation.

For the most part, he chose to use his money to bet on and kill animals. Instead of being viewed by many supporters and some media members as a tragic figure, he should be viewed like the fool he is.

Nevertheless, he'll likely get a year in a federal prison with millions waiting for him and a likely job as an NFL running back when he gets out. We should all be so lucky.

NERO: Move to Omaha a painful trek for lineman and family

Continued from B1

to flood. Before Callahan could describe the scene outside, there was a silence—the phone went dead. It would be eight months before Nero III found out his friend had survived the storm.

"That was rough. I didn't know if he was alive or not," Nero III said.

It was time to move on. They were tired of moving from hotel to hotel, so they moved to Omaha, Neb., to live with Nero III's older brother Derrick and his family. Quarters were tight for the 22 members of the family.

"There were only two bathrooms. Everybody had to wait. It was a little frustrating at first," Nero III said.

While Nero III lived in Omaha, he filled out piles of paperwork for relief benefits. For his trouble, the family received a meager \$40. Insurance didn't help the Nero family either—they received only \$800. He's slowly getting his identity back. He just received his birth certificate two months ago, a new license a month ago, but still hasn't received a Social Security Card.

"The insurance company told us they'd pay for anything that wasn't underwater," Nero II said. "Everything was underwater."

The family said it was treated well from the moment they arrived. People donated clothes, furniture and food. Church parishioners wrote checks, donating whatever they could.

Nero III enrolled at Omaha North High School, where he joined the football team mid-season and started in his first game for the Vikings. Initially, the team didn't say much, but that changed once they found out about his situation.

"They all came to me and told me they were there for me," Nero III said.

The first game Nero III started was overwhelming for him at first. Here he was, dressed in blue and yellow, rather than the maroon and gold he wore as a member of the Roneagles, lining up with guys he didn't know.

"I cried for 10 minutes before the game," Nero III said.

It was after his teammates huddled around him, giving encouragement and pumping him up for the game that he felt at home for the first time in a long time.

"That kept me going through," Nero III said.

Nero III started the final six games of the season as the Vikings finished 7-3 and clinched a berth in the state playoffs. Nero III

also earned an invitation to the Nebraska Shrine Bowl.

Initially, Nero thought the Shrine Bowl was just another all-star game until he found out the game benefited children's hospitals. Nero III said it was a humbling experience for him when the team flew to Chicago to visit the children. While at the hospital, the team talked with the kids, signed jerseys and played games.

"It makes you thankful for what you have," Nero III said.

At the end of the season, Viking teammate Aaron Terry, a former Bearcat recruit, encouraged Nero III to come to Northwest. He walked on and is in his second year with the Bearcats.

Nero admits there were times he considered quitting school to take care of his family, but he said they wanted him to continue.

"My family told me everything will be alright," Nero III said.

Nero III said his cousin, Tory Collins, defensive tackle for the Chicago Bears, calls him from time to time to ask him one thing.

"He always asks me 'Are you doing what you're supposed to be doing,'" Nero III said. "He always tells me to stay hungry."

Returning home

Nero III flew home in May 2006 for his high school prom. He

didn't tell any of his classmates he was coming. From the air, he could see most of the city remained underwater.

"From was cool. Everybody was surprised," Nero III said. "His house was still there, but there were holes in the roof, most of the siding was gone and the majority of the house he lived in his entire life — still underwater. Electricity hadn't returned to the city."

Going strong
Nero II said the family has no intention on returning to New Orleans.

"I believe we were sent away for a reason," Nero II said.

Most of the Nero family remains in Omaha. Some have returned to New Orleans and others have found a home in Mississippi. The family has bought a home. For Nero II, the children worry him the most.

"The only thing that hurts me are the kids," Nero II said. "They want to play with their friends from back home, but they don't know anybody up here."

He said he's found a home in Maryville with his family not far away. The experience has showed him that blood is truly thicker than water.

"I thank God for that," Nero III said.

LAYOFF: 'Cats hoping for layoff to provide needed rest

Continued from B1

to them this week."

This past week, the team engaged in more scrimmages than usual in an effort to keep the team in game shape.

The team also brought in officials to help simulate a live game.

While offensive coordinator Adam Dorrel believes you can never fully simulate a game, it does get the point across.

"From a coaching standpoint in practice, it's easy to slow down if you make a mistake and you try not to," Dorrel said. "But here, we want the officials to control the tempo of the game."

"So we're going to try and do some stuff that'll get us that experience we had Thursday

night."

Long layoffs also allow time for players to heal from injuries. One of those players Tjeerdsma expects to be ready is wide receiver and Omaha native E.J. Falkner, who has been nursing a strained leg muscle since mid-August.

Falkner could've started in the season-opener had he not suffered a setback the Monday before.

Players Tjeerdsma does not expect back in time are fullback Brant Gregg and linebacker Tommy Miller.

Gregg is still recovering from a broken finger suffered during training camp and Miller is recovering from a leg injury.

Miller was seen with a cast around his right leg prior to Thursday's game.

AFCA Top 25 Poll- Aug. 28

1. Grand Valley St. (25) 0-0
2. Northwest (2) 1-0*
3. North Dakota (1) 1-0
4. North Alabama 0-0
5. Chadron St. (Neb.) 1-0
6. Valdosta St. (Ga.) 0-0
7. Pittsburg St. (Kan.) 1-0
8. South Dakota 0-0
9. Shepherd (W.Va.) 1-0
10. Delta St. (Miss.) 0-0
11. Abilene Christian 0-0
12. Bloomsburg (Pa.) 0-0
13. Carson-Newman 1-0
14. Nebraska-Omaha 0-0
15. Northwood (Mich.) 0-0
16. Newberry (S.C.) 0-0
17. West Chester (Pa.) 0-0
18. Southeastern Okla. 0-0
19. Midwestern St. 1-0
20. Bemidji St. (Minn.) 0-0
21. Albany St. (Ga.) 1-0
22. Elizabeth City St. 0-0
23. California (Pa.) 1-0
24. West Texas A&M 0-0
25. Saginaw Valley St. 0-0

*Northwest awaiting decision on win from NCAA Division II Football Committee

STREAK: 'Hounds looking for new fortune against Chillicothe

Continued from B1

Brian Lohafer said his unit has its work cut out for them as Chillicothe specializes in confusing defenses.

"They use unbalanced sets to try and gain more players at the point of attack," he said. "They do a lot of motioning, so you can't just sit in the old 5-2 defense and try to take on these offenses of today. We've got to coach the kids to be able to adjust the defense. They're also throwing the ball a bit more now. They moved a wide receiver to quarterback and he's throwing well. At the jamboree, they spread it out and threw some and that's not traditionally what Chillicothe likes to do."

The defense will have to bring their game to an even higher level with two-time all-conference linebacker Tyler Ogelsby out for a few weeks with a separated shoulder.

Reserve Joe Chudzinski will be starting at middle linebacker Friday night. Starting guard Tanner Walter will also be watching from the sidelines as he had arthroscopic knee surgery recently.

These starters will be missed as the team will need every edge possible after last season's meeting, which featured a barrage of fourth quarter penalties and a late red zone fumble on the way to the 13th consecutive defeat, 30-14.

This year, the senior quarterback is envisioning the streak finally coming to a halt with motivation serving as the key ingredient for victory.

"I believe we want more than they do because it's been nine years since we've beat them," Walter said. "We're hungry for it and I'm pretty sure this is the year. It'd be huge and would start our season off on a high note."

2007 Maryville High School Football schedule

- Friday 8/31 — at Chillicothe 7 p.m.
Friday 9/7 — Lafayette, 7 p.m.
Friday 9/14 — at Benton, 7 p.m.
Friday 9/21 — Smithville, 7 p.m.
Friday 9/28 — Cameron, 7 p.m.
Friday 10/5 — at Platte County, 7 p.m.
Friday 10/12 — Savannah, 7 p.m.
Friday 10/19 — at Lawson, 7 p.m.
Friday 10/26 — Plattsburg (senior night), 7 p.m.
Friday 11/2 — at LeBlond, 7 p.m.

Fall Sports Preview

Includes:

- Northwest football striving for three straight championship appearances
- Previews for all University sports
- Previews for all Maryville high school sports
- Bios on new starters for the Bearcat football team

Check out next week's issue of the Northwest Missourian for the 8-page special section.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday 8.30.07

This year involves a lot of financial wheeling and dealing. The good news — you can get your house fixed up the way you want it. Put in the extra effort.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a 7 — Proceed toward your objective now with all due diligence. That means you should get while the getting's good, and it is.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 6 — You're up against the deadline again. There's not a moment to waste. The good news is that you get through this with another win. Accept your family's help.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is an 8 — You've been there for your teammates, and now they'll be there for you. Let them know your situation, and they'll help you get whatever you need.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is an 8 — You're naturally becoming stronger. Don't be surprised if the others ask you to be in charge. You're the logical choice.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 6 — Make time to get out and about. You need a change of scene to prevent you from getting stale. It's good for your creativity.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is a 7 — First, figure out what you really need. Then figure out what you want. This gives you a list, and that's a great comfort.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is a 6 — It's good to have somebody around to lean on, when necessary. Join up with a person who's good at something you find difficult.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is an 8 — Thankfully, there's a job coming up that doesn't require much thought. It does require action, but you know the routine by heart.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 7 — As always happens, conditions are changing. Soon, all will be sweetness and light. The dark clouds will roll on past and you can get back to your fun and games.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 7 — There's a thin line between garbage, recyclables and priceless antique treasures. Sometimes they're all piled in together. Take extra care sorting.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 7 — A-ha! There it is... the information you're seeking. This epiphany may not have happened yet but it's close. Get back to your research.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 7 — Let some of the others take over the major burden, for now. You'll be back to help as soon as you've had a little rest.

STROLLER

Your Man recaps summer nights



Ferris wheel.

When I was six, I had no idea that the money I gave him eventually made its way to the United Meth Dealers of America. Nor that the machine I was climbing was built in 1959 and held together by bird droppings and carry blood.

Ignorance was my shield, and with it, I had the time of my life. Actually, I was flung around like a rag doll until I vomited funnel cake for three hours; but those 30 seconds of Tilt-a-Whirl heaven were the best of my life.

At 16, I started to see things for what they really were. I started to see that it wasn't normal for a 27-year-old man to have no teeth and an obsession with stuffed animals. What I feared clear of the rides. What did I care? I'd found a new way to spend my time—the Teen Dance.

She was hot, sweaty and reeked like ass, but I thought she was the cutest one-eyed girl I'd ever seen. My cycloptic beauty and I danced the night away as the magic of the fair worked its spell on us. That, a pack of rubbers, and her inability to walk a straight line redefined the best 30 seconds of my life.

This past year marked my 15th year at the fair, and as much as I've changed in those years, the fair has stayed the same. It's got the same rides, same smells, even the same carnies (I would advise parents to keep your kids away from the guy at the Ferris wheel).

Now, the fair is more about partying until you're so drunk the carry at the dunk tank starts looking like an older version of Jessica Alba when she is in fact closer to an older version of Jean Hubbard.

But take her home and you won't regret it. Because if you think they have an unknown magic on the fair grounds, just wait until they take their teeth out and hop into bed.

That's magic you'll never forget.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

MOVIE REVIEW

Staffer gets "Simpsonized"

Simpson family doesn't fail in bringing humor to the big screen

By Tara Adkins
Features Editor

The yellow painted, dysfunctional dad asks the obvious question before the opening credits that requires a no-brainer answer. "Why pay for something you can see on TV for free?" Well, because "The Simpsons" never fail to bring comedy and disorder to the small screen and now to the silver.

In "The Simpsons Movie," everything is bigger. The jokes, the laughs, the drama. Even some emotion sprinkles the movie with actual meaning amidst the ridiculous plot.

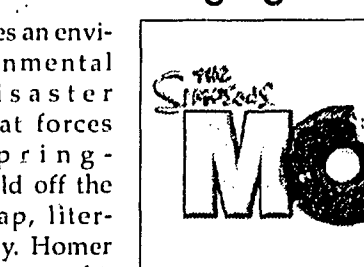
The film satires the interactions of the 18-season-old, cartoon family we grew up to love. Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, Maggie and the rest of the Springfield gang tackle issues on family values, the EPA and maneuvering a dog sled across the Alaskan mountains shaped as the Eskimo Medicine Woman's giant boobs.

Loyal fans will appreciate the long-awaited film although rumors spread that a movie would not be released until the season ends. Consider it a blessing.

Homer's selfish mindset creates a pet pig better than Bart as he develops an odd relationship with the pig while scooting it across the ceiling singing the Spider-man theme song. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays president but refuses to read any strategic plan because reading was never included in the job title. And of course, Bart makes his porn preview through squeezing by the PG-13 rating and flashing his family values scene.

As a child, my mother forbade me to watch the series due to the bratty boy disrespecting his elders, partially because she feared I would follow Bart's fowl footsteps.

Now as a committed fan, I've opened my arms and embraced the yellow-painted family as part of my own. Go see it.



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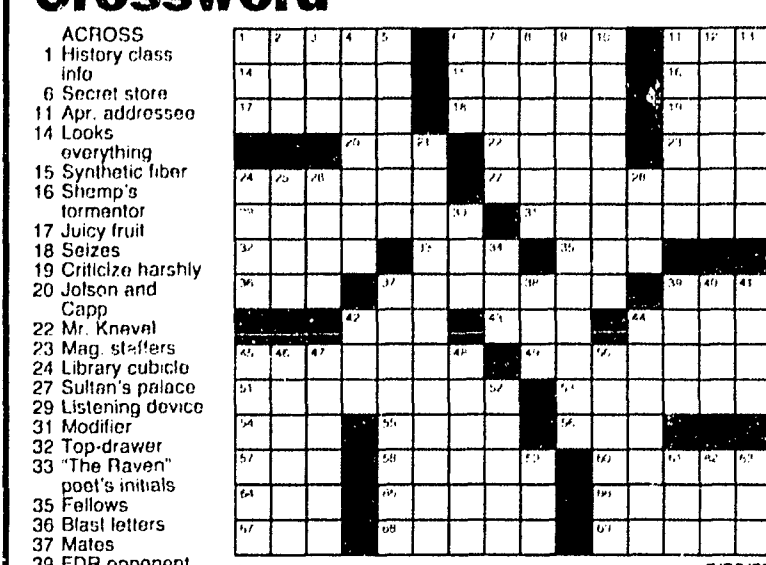
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Crossword



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Across		Down	
1 History class	1 Down	2 Secret store	2 Down
3 Apr. address	3 Down	4 Looks	4 Down
5 Synthetic fiber	5 Down	6 Shampoo	6 Down
7 Juicy fruit	7 Down	8 Snaps	8 Down
9 Criticize harshly	9 Down	10 Johnson and	10 Down
11 Capp	11 Down	12 Mr. Knowl	12 Down
13 Map, staffers	13 Down	14 Library cubicle	14 Down
15 Sultan's palace	15 Down	16 Listening device	16 Down
17 Modifier	17 Down	18 The Raven's	18 Down
19 poet's initials	19 Down	20 Blat letters	20 Down
21 Kates	21 Down	22 FOR opponent	22 Down
23 Conquish	23 Down	24 Little bit	24 Down
25 Wild	25 Down	26 Rider and	26 Down
27 Bowman	27 Down	28 Urban birds	28 Down
29 Folk cures	29 Down	30 Subjugates	30 Down
31 Fables pink	31 Down	32 Top drawer	32 Down
33 Evasive light	33 Down	34 Leisurely	34 Down
35 Disparate	35 Down	36 Exotic hero	36 Down
37 Something to	37 Down	38 Canal boat	38 Down
39 Final profit	39 Down	40 Couch	40 Down
41 Believe in	41 Down	42 "The Raven"	42 Down
43 Lic. to pull teeth	43 Down	44 Used a broom	44 Down
45 Pig's dinner	45 Down	46 Down	46 Down
47 Beaver project	47 Down	48 Cane	48 Down
49 Paragon	49 Down	50 Gulls	50 Down
51 Cents a	51 Down	52 Solitary	52 Down
53 Prepare to light!	53 Down	54 Actor Parker	54 Down
55 Long scapes	55 Down	56	

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LIVING RICH IN POVERTY

Northwest senior learns lessons in life and love from Ugandan orphans

By Whitney Keyes
Asst. Features Editor

She didn't foresee how her life would change when she hit the "play" button for an online video.

After watching the hour long "Invisible Children" film, she knew what she needed to do.

"I was so shocked, but my heart was just there. I was like 'Holy cow—I need to be there,'" Katie Kindler said.

And that's when Kindler began her journey to Uganda.

Kindler, a Northwest senior, spent this summer working with orphans in Soroti, Uganda. With her best friend Kelsy Kopecky of Belmont University in Nashville, she spent two months with 45 orphans, watching her art lessons brighten their lives.

Kindler, who had heard of the documentary "Invisible Children" Googled it on whim. The film focuses on three college males who visited Uganda to help survivors of the civil war. When the video was over, she knew that was what she wanted to do. So, she prayed for opportunities to help and people that could help her.

"It's really beautiful how it all fell into place," Kindler said.

She met Kopecky, a stranger who also wanted to visit Africa, in October 2007. They were brought together by an overwhelming desire to help Africans. She spoke with her pastor and discovered he knew missionaries in Uganda. It was beginning to look like helping Ugandan orphans was a definite possibility.

Yet the two friends had another battle to conquer first—raising the money to accomplish their dreams. Together they needed right around \$6,000. The two designed t-shirts, which sold for \$10. Kopecky, a musician, sold the shirts at her shows, as well as advertising to their friends, family, churches, and all of Facebook.

Between profits from Kopecky's shows, the shirts, and numerous donations from churches and individuals, the two had more than enough money almost two months before leaving for Uganda. The extra money was used to buy treats for the orphans they were about to meet.

On May 20, 2007, Kindler and Kopecky met in New Jersey, which was followed by almost 20 hours of flights. Finally, exhausted and jet lagged they made it to Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Trying to adjust to the eight hour time difference, the two bought groceries with some fellow missionaries in the "nicer stores," which seemed bare to Kindler.

After two days, they made the six-hour drive to Soroti, the village where they would be staying.

"I can't even think of how to describe driving in Uganda. It's like driving over a pile of big rocks—boulders," Kindler said. "I really missed smooth roads, being able to go 65 miles an hour or drive without a headache."

In Soroti, the pair rested for one day, and then got to work changing lives. The orphanage was home to 45 children, ages ranging from 4 to 13. Many of the children had lost parents in the civil war, at the hands of the rebel army. A few had been forced to serve as child soldiers.

Despite the hardships the children had been through and the poverty they lived in, they were loving and carefree.

"They love very easy, very quick. And it's the truest love I've

ever seen," Kindler said.

Their daily schedule consisted of teaching reading, writing and phonics to the 6-year-old class in the morning, lunch, free time in the afternoon and dinner with different missionary families. Fortunately, English is the primary language of Uganda and is taught to students.

Once a week Kindler taught art and Kopecky taught music. Kindler was disheartened slightly by the lack of supplies she had for art classes—some construction paper, a few markers here, a handful of crayons there.

"When you don't have money to feed yourself, you don't do art," Kindler said. "One day we got watercolors, which was a big deal to me, but they were stoked."

While they could do whatever they wanted in the afternoon, they mainly spent their time with the children. They would sing songs, tell Bible stories, swing on the tree branches or play games the children had made up with sticks and stones. Once, Kindler took some students out to see extended family—involving a half-hour drive and a walk through a rainforest.

Being immersed in the culture for two months, Kindler got used to certain Ugandan routines. Going barefoot was habit, she walked a mile balancing water on her head and even managed to pick up some of the tribal language spoken in Soroti.

"The sickest thing I've ever done was cut the head off of a chicken while it was still alive. We were screaming and trying to saw its head off, and there's this Ugandan woman cracking up laughing at us."

It was hard for Kindler to come back after spending two months eating, sleeping and breathing Uganda. She expected a culture shock when she got to Africa—not when she got back to America. However, she was proved wrong.

"I got off the plane and thought 'Not those poor people, these poor people,'" Kindler said. "It was almost suffocating to be back, to be surrounded by so much."

Though she claims she missed simple pleasures like salad, or wearing pants as opposed to long skirts every day, Kindler has come back with a new attitude. Having loved and been loved by children who only had three sets of clothes, she's seen what she believes really matters.

"The best gift they've ever had is Jesus, and they hold onto it, and they are stoked. They don't have anything, so their hope is not on this earth," Kindler said.

Now, back in Maryville, Kindler is trying to figure out how to use what she's learned. She's struggling with trying to be selfless and avoiding clutter.

"I can't just build a hut in Maryville and live like they do, it's not logical. And giving away all my clothes won't help the orphans I worked with," Kindler said. "It's the heart behind it."

And the heart behind living is the lesson she learned. What really matters, she believes, is loving people and loving God, with all her heart. She's trying to figure out how to balance the life she's lived in the United States, full of the clothes she wanted, a bike and a car, and a nice house with the life she's seen in Uganda—one with hardly any belongings, but a lot of heart.

"It's like they have deep economic poverty, and we have deep soul poverty," Kindler said.



all photos submitted by Katie Kindler

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Kindler plays with some Ugandan orphans on the street where she and Kopecky lived and worked for two months this summer. (SECOND FROM TOP) Two orphans pause for a picture, posing in their best clothes. Most of the children Kindler worked with had only three pairs of clothes—a school uniform, some play clothes and an outfit for church. (THIRD FROM THE TOP) Kindler visits a young boy suffering from malaria in the hospital. Though malaria medicine would only require a few extra dollars a month, most of the villagers in Soroti cannot afford it. Malaria is now the main cause of death. (FOURTH FROM THE TOP) A look at a typical street with housing in Soroti. Kindler, unfortunately she said, had an Americanized apartment, with a kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms.



VINCENT, a 4-year-old orphan laughs as he wears Kindler's oversized sunglasses. Luxuries, like sunglasses, are not typical for these orphans.

Republic of Uganda

Uganda, which is slightly smaller than Oregon, has an extensive history of violence. The country was taken over by dictator Idi Amin in 1971. Years to follow were marked by the civil war and deaths of more than 300 thousand citizens. Many deaths can be attributed to the rebel army, which was known for killing parents and turning children into soldiers. As a result, Uganda now has many orphanages run by civilians and missionaries. Since 1986, President Yoweri Museveni has kept the country stable.

Capital: Kampala
Languages: English / Swahili
2006 Population: 28 million
Male Life Expectancy: 50.78
Female Life Expectancy: 52.73
Literacy Rate: 66.8
Total Districts: 56
Independence: Oct. 9, 1962
GDP Per Cap: 1,900

